

quiry agreed by both ides in steel dispute

est breakthrough in the steel strike came when the British Steel Corporation and officials agreed on terms of reference for the committee of inquiry into the dispute. Union leaders expect to meet Mr James Prior, of State for Employment, on Monday to set up a three-man committee to differences between the employer's pay union claims.

Union leaders set to meet Mr Prior

The corporation last night made no secret of its view that an independent inquiry brings and end to the eleven and a half week old strike into view. The most likely constitution would be a body with an independent chairman and two members nominated respectively by the unions and the management. Mr Scholey said the management wanted the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service rather than the Government to set up the arbitration machinery. "As an independent body and the Government have repeatedly made it clear they do not want to intervene in the dispute," he said. The unions by contrast are reluctant to accept an A.C.A.S.-established body but whatever form it takes the committee will stop well short of being a quasi-judicial court of inquiry. Mr Scholey said that there would be "no moral obligation" on the parties to accept the findings, though Mr Prior said that in the end it would be up to the members themselves to accept the terms. Mr Scholey's management team and the 10-member Iron and Steel Trades Confederation National Union acemen will meet on Tuesday night at 10.30 in the Steel Corporation's offices. Mr Scholey, the corporation's chief executive, said that when the union's Mr Prior they are "confronted with the fact that the union is calling off the dog on the money on the

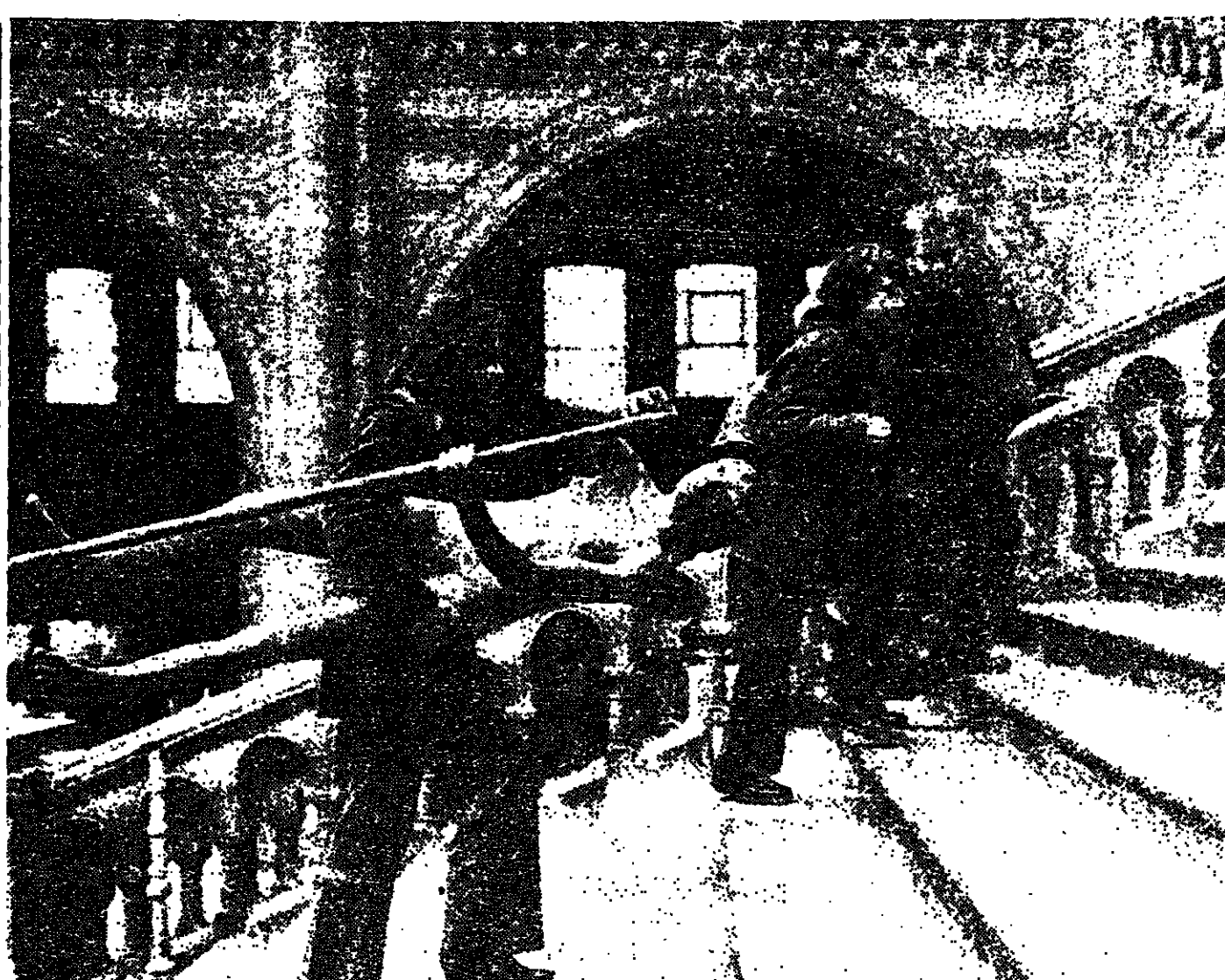
Liverpool dockers' strike may spread

From R. W. Shakespeare
Liverpool

The port of Liverpool was halted yesterday and could remain closed indefinitely as more than 5,000 dockers stopped work in support of 100 men laid off without pay after refusing to load steel on a ship bound for India. The trouble began on Thursday but when dockers reported to their control points along the waterfront yesterday morning they were immediately called by shop stewards to a series of mass meetings. They voted overwhelmingly in support of an all-out strike. Mr Dennis Kelly, the chairman of the docks' shop stewards committee, issued a warning that the action at Liverpool could well widen into a national docks strike. He said: "This had to happen some time. Since the steel strike began we have been loading steel for export only, but last week we were ordered by the union (the Transport and General Workers) not to move any steel either for import or export."

"With the employers insisting that steel must be loaded it was only a matter of time before a dispute arose." The simmering unrest came to a head over only 300 tons of construction steel which was being loaded at Gladstone Dock on the ss Berislav, owned by the Baltic Steamship Company. It represented only a small part of a big general cargo ship. Half the steel was on board on Thursday evening when the 100 dockers working the ship said they would load no more. They were told by the management that unless the steel was loaded they would be "put off."

Union officials said that would be treated as a "lock-out". They immediately launched the call for an all-out strike in the whole of the port. By last night 25 ships, 21 deep-sea vessels and four tankers were struckbound in the port. A spokesman for the Liverpool Port Employers' Association said: "The men were told in an official circular as far back as the end of January that they would be expected to handle any cargo in the port in the normal way." "There was no attempt to deny the right to strike but it was made clear that if they chose to support disputes in other industries by refusing to work it must be at their own expense." The port cannot afford to be the only one which every other industry forces its pay disputes. The Liverpool dockers will attend a mass meeting at Liverpool stadium tomorrow. This has been called to discuss the 1980 pay negotiations but the strike is bound to be the top item on the agenda. A month's supply, page 2



The ascent of woman: Mr Graham High, modelmaker at the Natural History Museum, London, carrying his lifesize model of a Neanderthal woman which is to be in a permanent exhibition entitled "Man's Place in Evolution". It will open to the public on May 1.

Hint of break with Iran over hostages

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Measures designed to secure the release of the American hostages in Tehran are under review in London and other EEC capitals, including the ultimate possibility of breaking off diplomatic relations. But it was emphasized in Whitehall yesterday that this would be an extreme measure and that it was not part of British policy. Sir John Graham, the British Ambassador to Iran, is returning to London next week, at the request of Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, for a review of Britain's relations with Iran. His visit is concerned with the general situation, and not linked to the question of the hostages, it was stated. Speculation about breaking off diplomatic relations arose yesterday after a report in the New York Times that EEC ambassadors in Tehran had recommended their governments to consider such a move, if the hostages were not released. The report said that the ambassadors of the Nine, plus Greece, who act as a group in Tehran, had listed steps which in their view would provide a political approach to the problem of securing the hostages' release. The final step, they suggested, should be a break in diplomatic relations, but for this to have any real impact, at least 20 countries should be ready to join. The implication was that if some of these countries were from the Third World, it would avoid giving the impression that only the West was concerned with the fate of the hostages.

The Foreign Office would neither confirm nor deny the report. However, the fact that the EEC ambassadors work together in Iran means that they have considered a number of proposals to help the hostages. At the extreme range of these, it is safe to assume, lies the option of breaking diplomatic relations. Such a course is hardly likely to commend itself at this stage. The United States itself has not acted to sever its links formally, even if in practice it cannot conduct diplomatic relations with its embassy staff held hostage and Iran still has an embassy functioning in Washington.

The EEC ambassadors' main conclusion, according to the New York Times, was that the problem of the hostages was political, not economic. The report added, according to this account, that the United States had reversed its previous position on economic sanctions. European governments would want to make certain of American policy before taking further action. Paris: The report is regarded in informed circles in Paris more as wishful thinking than as fact, as another attempt by the United States to bring pressure to bear on its West European allies to adopt a hard line towards the revolutionary government. Brussels: EEC diplomatic sources here confirmed that the severance of member states' relations with Iran had been discussed as a measure of last resort if there was no progress in securing the release of the hostages. Khomeini attack, page 5

Drink, tobacco, petrol are Budget targets

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Mounting government concern over the rapid increase in wages, and fears for industry's financial position are likely to dominate the Chancellor's Budget speech next Wednesday. Sir Geoffrey Howe is likely to stress the Government's determination not to accept double digit inflation. However, hopes that the Government would be able to spell out its medium term view of prospects for the economy seem to have receded. Although the Government has decided to present a medium term financial plan for the period up to 1984, it now looks likely that there will be no details of the way in which it expects national output and prices to move. The Budget has been drawn up against an increasingly worrying inflationary position. The only way wages can be slowed, Treasury forecasts to be published with the Budget will suggest that Britain faces a downturn worse than any in our postwar history and the Government may feel that it has to do something to shore up the manufacturing industry, not bearing all the brunt of this downturn. It had been hoped that the prospect of a cut in public borrowing in the year to come would lead to a sharp fall in interest rates which would help industry. This hope seems to have been postponed if not abandoned. It is now accepted that interest rates will have to remain high as long as wages continue to advance at a rapid rate.

There is also a strong possibility that either oil companies or the banks will be subjected to extra tax, with the oil companies' looking for marginal favourites at the state because of their revenue from the North Sea. But the Chancellor is determined to do nothing which could be seen as causing extra burdens for the industrial sector, which is already facing a big squeeze as a result of rising wages and falling demand. He will probably try to give industrial companies some help, possibly by cutting the national insurance surcharge which employers pay. Other options which might be considered include some easing of the tax burden on companies who run down their stocks. The Government now appears to be reconciled to a sharp recession with a dramatic drop in output and employment as the only route by which wages can be slowed. Treasury forecasts to be published with the Budget will suggest that Britain faces a downturn worse than any in our postwar history and the Government may feel that it has to do something to shore up the manufacturing industry, not bearing all the brunt of this downturn. It had been hoped that the prospect of a cut in public borrowing in the year to come would lead to a sharp fall in interest rates which would help industry. This hope seems to have been postponed if not abandoned. It is now accepted that interest rates will have to remain high as long as wages continue to advance at a rapid rate.

Confessions of a Soviet black marketeer

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 21

"What is wrong in being a black market dealer?" Svetlana asked. "Thanks in him you can wear Western brand-name clothes, listen to marvelous records, and have got lots of Western things: jeans, tape-recorders, sports shoes. We buy and sell these things—though for a higher price than they cost, of course." Svetlana is a 16-year-old girl from Gorky. Her aim in life is to look smart, wear fashionable clothes and satisfy the demands of her clients for what cannot be found in Soviet shops. She believes she plays a worthwhile role, and was bold enough to write recently to *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Communist youth newspaper, to tell them so. "No one has ever stopped me in my 'work', she said. "Everyone is grateful to me, and many depend on me. We only let those people join our circle who are able to get hold of things. Even my mother helps."

"People who cannot get what they want come to us—including those who are convinced that the black market is wrong. Where is their conviction when they are handing over the money?" Svetlana said she never had a bad conscience, and made enough profit for herself and her mother. But when a reporter asked her to describe the demands of her clients for what cannot be found in Soviet shops, she replied: "I will not work—let my husband provide for me. I will find a well-off man—not some one with an ordinary Zhiguli, but someone with a Mercedes." A Zhiguli is a mass-produced Soviet car; very few Russians own a Mercedes.

Svetlana said she became involved in the black market after her mother was divorced. The mother was always complaining that they did not have enough money. But when they found that a relative had a job that took him abroad often, and he was able to bring back the precious Western goods, both mother and daughter saw their way to riches and set themselves up as distributors. Respectable aunts and uncles helped, introducing Svetlana to eager buyers. "No single person approached her," *Komsomolskaya Pravda* said in indignation. "Indeed if anyone had called her a speculator, he would have been wasting his words. All these aunts, uncles and acquaintances kept themselves out of the picture, but the goods and left her the money."

Svetlana is not an isolated example. The Soviet papers are full of cases of black marketing. Indeed, it is sometimes hard to avoid the conclusion that the whole country is on the fiddle.

Continued on page 4, col 2

The hurt umber ge ship

porters can be injured last night when a lifting gantry and steel sections of road hoisted into position new Humber bridge. The steel box sections, dangling held by cables, workers on the bridge above the men were taken in Hull with head injuries. The other was hurt. The bridge, which is the longest single-span bridge in the world, is at Barton upon the southern side of the Humber. It was originally to be completed in 1973 and was estimated to cost £10 million at the end of

Mr Whitelaw to stop jail terms for drunks

From Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter
Bournemouth

Plans to reverse the increasing rise in the number of prisoners are to be announced shortly by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary. There is also to be an important reorganization of the prison department in response to the recommendation of the May Committee. Mr Whitelaw intends to reduce the level of prison population by about 4,000 over the next four years by abolishing prison sentences for drunkenness, the mentally subnormal, and those convicted of non-violent minor offences. Delinquents at the Conservative Central Council conference at Bournemouth yesterday were told that the prison population was now 44,800, nearly 3,000 above the level desired by Mr Roy Jenkins, when he was Home Secretary, in 1973. Mr Whitelaw said it was no use continuing to overburden staff, too often working in antiquated and inadequate buildings, with petty offenders such as persistent drunks who could not pay their fines and could be dealt with just as well in other ways. He has in mind special centres for the mentally subnormal who have been convicted, which will be the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Security and the local authorities. "I can foresee that putting the prison system in a tight money belt will mean that more than new experiments in penal policy, more than the major reorganization of the prison department I shall be announcing shortly," he said. Peter Evans, a prison governor, is seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Whitelaw. Mr Brendan O'Friel, chairman of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said Mr Whitelaw appeared to be doing his best and what he had said was helpful as far as it went. "But I do not see anything in that statement that gets over what you do with 44,000 prisoners." Call for loyalty, page 2

Mozambique ministers ousted

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, March 21

President Samora Machel of Mozambique, hailing to overcome corruption, has dismissed two of his ministers, Mr Manuel dos Santos, the Minister of Trade, and Mr Jose Cosme, the Minister of Public Works and Housing. Mr Helder Martins, the Minister of Health, has resigned. He is understood to have been offered a senior post with the World Health Organization. The dismissal of the two ministers occurred three days after President Machel had announced a "policy of efficiency, honesty and cleanliness" in his country's administration. In an address to a crowd of 40,000 he vowed that people found guilty of corruption would be sent to labour camps and he pledged a return of private enterprise in Mozambique. For the past three months, President Machel has been waging a campaign against inefficiency in government, the administration and the bureaucracy. He has visited a large number of state-run organizations and enterprises to inquire how they were operating and has ordered the dismissal or arrest of those whom he found to be corrupt or failing to do their jobs effectively. In his speech on Tuesday President Machel sounded a

warning that he would oust employees who were not working and "surplus workers" and draft them directly into productive work. He also announced the closure of 100 shops whose control was to be turned over to private enterprise. One reason why the Mozambican leader may be carrying out this house cleaning exercise now is the success of the Lancaster House talks and the subsequent settlement in neighbouring Rhodesia. Many of Mozambique's problems during the past four years have until recently been blamed on the war in Rhodesia and the closure in 1976 of the border between the two countries.

Leadership: On nuclear warfare, from Mr Tom McKitterick, and the Rev Allan J. Bowers; on divorce law, from Mr R. M. Powell; on Arts Council grants, from Professor Philip Collins. Leading articles: Ulster conference; biological warfare; the Ukrainian Church. Features, page 12. Philip Howard looks at Byzantium in Birmingham; Sportview on the United City football derby in Manchester. Saturday Review, pages 6-11. Good food, collecting, drink, travel, bridge, gardening. Arts, page 8. Irving Wardle reviews *Othello* with Paul Scofield at the National Theatre; David Wade on the week's radio. Obituary, page 14. Marcel Boussac, Professor Edward Copson, Prince Boun Oum. Sport, pages 15, 16. Rugby Union: International Board take stand on foul play; Rowing: Oarsmen form association to think again on Olympic Games. Business News, pages 17-21. Stock markets: Equities drifted downwards as the account ended, and gilts were easier. The FT Index closed at 429.5, down 3.3.

September 3rd 1963 should have been the happiest day in Bob and Helen's life. But it turned into a round- the-clock vigil of 16 years.

They named her Mary. When she was born she weighed 4lbs and 5ozs. Her parents, Bob and Helen, knew something was wrong but didn't quite know what lay ahead. Mary was physically and mentally handicapped. After the initial shock, Bob and Helen pledged that they would search for everything and devote the rest of their lives in helping Mary to face the world.

So Mary grew up at home. Day in and day out, year after year, the parents took turns to be with her. While Bob was at work, Helen did the housework. For sixteen long years, without rest, without a single holiday. Until this spring when they were able to leave Mary for two weeks in Dr Barnardo's temporary relief home. Bob and Helen were able to take a holiday they really deserved and recover from extreme stress built over sixteen years of constant attention. And Mary had a healthy change of environment in a home as attentive as her own.

At Dr Barnardo's, we now run temporary relief homes that are, in fact, holiday homes for unfortunate children like Mary. These homes also provide parents like Bob and Helen the opportunity to take a vacation without worry. Because trained helpers

provide all the care and alertness that handicapped children need.

Our help has no limits, but our money does. Still, help like Mary needs costs a lot and every 5 you give goes towards doing those less fortunate than you.

What you send what you can today? For only 50p we can buy a set of books. For £10 we can buy a set of educational books. For £100 we can feed five temporarily resident children for eight weeks. And it helps even more if you volunteer to pay regularly. That way we can claim back tax so every 5 you give is worth 4.3. Not a penny is wasted, because we know it is your money we are using. And all our helpers feel exactly the same way.

Please send what you can now for our temporary relief homes, day care centres, residential homes and schools. Your caring will reach out all the way to many unfortunate families and children like Bob, Helen and Mary.

We at Dr Barnardo's, and the 9,000 children for whom we care, thank you for your help.

Dr Barnardo's, Tamworth Lane, Ilford, Essex IG6 1PG.

Dr Barnardo's

I enclose a donation of £3 ☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £100 ☐

Please send me details of opportunities so that I can increase the value of my giving.

Name

Address

Dr Barnardo's, Appeals Director Room 588, Dr Barnardo's, Tamworth Lane, Ilford, Essex IG6 1PG.

to impose offer n April 8

ayland began its crucial in shopfloor support when formal notice that it will offer on pay and work from April 8, the first day after Easter. In a letter to its staff, Mr Ray Horrocks, BL executive, said the company's practical alternative but the unions' cooperation and to avoid conflict. But he warning that workers who try action will be subject to

Transplant heart 'was not faulty'

The heart given to a woman who died after a transplant operation last month was not faulty when it was put in, a coroner was told. A complex chemical imbalance in the patient's blood fluids caused it to stop beating and internal changes occurred during attempts to restart it.

Catalan victory

The Catalan party, *Convergencia and Unio*, led by a man once imprisoned under General Franco's regime, won the largest number of seats in the election for the regional parliament of Catalonia. Spain's ruling Centre Democratic Union finished a poor fourth behind the Socialists and the Communists.

Hollywood sale

The home of Mary Pickford and her husband, Douglas Fairbanks, senior, has been put up for sale for £4.4m. Miss Pickford designated in her will that proceeds from the sale go to various charities. The house, built in the 1920s, is a famous Hollywood showplace.

New lead in Welsh arson cases

Two more holiday homes were damaged by fire in the campaign by Welsh extremists to deter outsiders from buying houses. The fires were a hundred miles apart, lending weight to the theory that more than one group is connected with the arson cases.

Tory 'mistakes'

Criticising the Government's economic strategy, Mr Peter Tapsell, Conservative MP for Horncliffe, said that it was a mistake to raise VAT to 15 per cent; a mistake to load the budgeting deficit so heavily on to the first half of the fiscal year; and a mistake not to agree on reductions in real public expenditure last summer.

Stonehenge theory

An Australian scientist has challenged the theory that Stonehenge was built with a knowledge of complex mathematics and astronomy. Dr John Patrick, of Melbourne, has spent three years researching Stonehenge.

Zimbabwe to keep close British link

Rhodesia is to be decolonized, it intends to start a new relationship with Britain "with a clean slate", according to Mr Simon Mumba, the new Foreign Minister-designate in Salisbury. An independent Zimbabwe would be "very close" to Britain, and the socialist-leaning Government intended to be non-aligned.

Prices plea: Food companies urge the Government to stand firm against higher farm prices on foods of which there are EEC surpluses.

Carpet find: A carpet discovered at Glamis Castle may fetch £120,000 at auction.

Poland: Leaflet urges voters to boycott tomorrow's general election 5. Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 10, 24, appointments, 10; home and garden, 23; postal shopping 23.

Home News	2, 3	Court	14	Sport	15, 16
European News	4	Crossword	24	TV & Radio	9
Overseas News	4, 5	Engagements	14	Theatre, etc	7, 8
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WEST EUROPE

Catalan conservatives beat Madrid-based parties in regional poll

From Harry Debellus

Madrid, March 21. The Catalan conservative leader, Señor Jordi Pujol, who was once court-martialed and imprisoned for singing a song about Catalonia in the presence of General Franco, today scored a victory over candidates of the main Spanish parties in the election for the regional parliament of Catalonia.

Señor Pujol's party, Convergència and Unió, won 43 of the 135 seats in the regional Parliament leaving the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the party of the Prime Minister, Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister. Señor Pujol's party is expected to ally itself in the regional Parliament with the Centre Democratic Union and with the Republican Left of Catalonia, rather than with either the Socialists or Communists.

There will be no official word on parliamentary coalitions before the executive committee of Convergència and Unió is to meet. One aspect of the voting, which took place yesterday, was the strong showing of the Andalusian Socialist Party, which won two seats in the Parliament of Catalonia receiving 2 per cent of the vote. Its support came from workers who moved from the southern region of Andalus to work in the Basque country where strong nationalist sentiment weakened the Madrid-based parties.

The outcome of the Catalan election virtually assures the presidency of the Generalitat, the Catalan regional government, to Señor Pujol, who will also head the regional Parliament. The election returns are likely to bring even more dismal

Italian magistrates demand protection from terrorists

From John Earle

Rome, March 21

Rome law courts were at a standstill today as magistrates discussed their demands for better protection. Their morale has been shaken by the terrorist murders of three magistrates in four days this week. Magistrates attended a sit-in all morning which started yesterday and lasted all night.

Meanwhile three leading trade unions here have published a joint letter to all political parties, expressing concern at the effects of terrorism on the country.

Whatever party leads the new government, it must not adopt the methods of postponing

Europe falters on boycott

Strasbourg, March 21. Only

Britain, Holland and Portugal voiced support for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics at a meeting of ministers of sport from the 21 member states of the Council of Europe, today.

Sweden, Switzerland, Austria and Cyprus took a strictly neutral line, saying they would leave the decision to their national Olympic committees and not try to influence them one way or the other.

The other 14 member states also say the decision is up to their Olympic committees, but have not decided whether they will influence them for or against a boycott.

Even two of the countries

Doctor must pay for failure of sterilization

From Our Correspondent

Berlin, March 21

The Federal Court in Karlsruhe has ruled that if a woman gives birth after a doctor has attempted to sterilize her, the doctor shall be liable to pay maintenance for the child until it reaches 18.

However, to make a successful claim the parents must prove that the birth upset the planning of the family.

The court ruled that an unsuccessful sterilization amounted to bodily injury for which indemnity could be claimed. It found that even if the child was not wanted its arrival did not represent damage, thus ruling that the child itself could not be the subject of a legal claim, only its maintenance costs.

Maintenance costs for a child are on a sliding scale according to its age and provide for monthly amounts of DM188 to DM270 (about £47 to £68). But sums do not cover the cost of the child's upbringing because of the high standard of living of the parents, the balance must be made up by the parents.

Britain needs £800m cut in revised budget figure

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, March 21

The most up-to-date estimate of Britain's net contribution to the EEC budget suggests that Mrs Margaret Thatcher would need a cut of £800m at the absolute minimum to approach parity with the French.

This is between £200m and £300m more than the most she is generally considered likely to be offered at the summit meeting here on March 31 and April 1.

The latest estimate of £1,124m published here today by the European Commission reveals that West Germany was a net contributor of £665m is the only other member state which pays more into the budget than it gets out.

The net gains of these countries are as follows: Italy (£410m), Ireland (£335m), Belgium (£297m), Denmark (£265m), Holland (£244m), Luxembourg (£178m), and France (£62m).

The main reason for Britain's unfavourable balance is that 70 per cent of the EEC budget is

news for the Catalan Socialist Party, which is affiliated to the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, than for the Centre Democratic Union, the party of the Prime Minister. Señor Pujol's party is expected to ally itself in the regional Parliament with the Centre Democratic Union and with the Republican Left of Catalonia, rather than with either the Socialists or Communists.

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OVERSEAS

Mugabe aide discounts significance of country's colonial past and wants to start with a clean slate Zimbabwe plans to keep close links with Britain after independence

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, March 21

The new Republic of Zimbabwe intends to maintain close and cordial relations with Britain after independence next month, according to Mr Simon Mzemba, the Foreign Minister.

In an interview with The Times, the first he has given since his appointment, he said: "We will be very close to our former colonizers."

Mr Mzemba said London would be the first capital in which Zimbabwe would open a diplomatic mission. He emphasized that Zimbabwe's historical ties with Britain, together with the use of the English language, meant that it was natural to look towards the former colonial power when considering its future economic, trade and cultural links.

"The fact we were a colonized people is no problem for us as we are a collection of people. Now that we have been decolonized we can start a new relationship with a clean slate."

His Government had already asked Britain for various forms of assistance, a request with which Britain is complying.

Mr Mzemba, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, exemplified the pragmatic approach which Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, has adopted since his party's overwhelming election victory at the beginning of this month. A man of little formal education who began life as a carpenter and became involved in the Nationalist struggle right from the outset, he said his first task as minister was to study the existing structure of his ministry.

"We are not going to change things just for the sake of changing them. We must study what already exists and then see how it may be improved."

Mr Mzemba, in fact, inherits a department in which there is considerable scope for growth and development. For the past 15 years the country has had virtually no foreign service to

represent it. Its only foreign mission is in South Africa. Until the arrival of Lord Soames, the Governor, last December, South Africa was the only country to maintain a diplomatic presence in Salisbury.

All that will change now and a number of European and African countries are already planning to open embassies in Salisbury.

However, Mr Mzemba pointed out that although Zimbabwe wanted to have good relations with all countries, the number of overseas missions to be established would depend on the availability of funds and trained diplomats. He did not rule out the possibility of whites being appointed as the country's representatives abroad.

The basis of the country's foreign policy would be non-alignment. Beyond that Zimbabwe foreign relations would be dictated by what Mr Mzemba described as "the practicalities of the situation". What this

meant was that Zimbabwe's foreign relations would be based on whatever was in the country's best interests.

He denied that his party's espousal of socialism would incline the Government to lean towards socialist states and away from the West in its foreign policy. He pointed out that neighbouring Mozambique had far closer economic relations with the United States and South Africa than it did with any communist country.

Similarly Zimbabwe would have to maintain close economic ties with South Africa in the foreseeable future. "We may not like each other's policies, but due to reasons of geography our economies are dependent on each other."

His Government would not adopt a policy of trying to reduce trade through South Africa in order to lessen this dependence.

"When we start using Maputo and Beira again this does not mean we will stop using South African ports. It will depend on

which ports are able to move our goods quickly and cheaply."

Not decision had yet been taken on whether South Africa would be permitted to maintain its diplomatic mission in Salisbury. Although it would appear the line adopted by the Organization of African Unity on South Africa, Zimbabwe would not interfere in the internal affairs of its white-ruled neighbour. "We are not going to start a fight with South Africa."

In a separate interview, Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, the Minister of Mines, also emphasized that his first task was to learn how his ministry and the mining industry generally operated. "It will take time," he said, "I need to do a lot of learning."

Until today, when he was taken on a tour of Empress Mine, near Gwelo, he had never visited a mine in his life, partly because he had spent most of the last 15 years in detention. He has already had a meet-

ing with the Minister of Mines at the mine to reassess them. He said that some of the mining industry's mistakes by nationalization were necessary. I must see continued progress in the mining sector."

Mr Nyagumbo, how the mining more directly as a whole. This is an examination of the nature of the industry, a study of wages workers."

He regretted that he had been away from the country for so long. He said he was teaching of the industry, he said, "I need to do a lot of learning."

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Sharpeville killings recalled in S Africa

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg, March 21

Thousands of black South Africans today quietly marked "Heroes Day" the twentieth anniversary of the police killings at Sharpeville of 67 people demonstrating against the pass laws. A further 186 were wounded.

In black townships commemorative services will be held this weekend throughout South Africa.

Sharpeville is 30 miles from Johannesburg, on the outskirts of the industrial town of Vereeniging, where about 6,000 austere, look-alike homes flank dusty streets.

It is peaceful and quiet there—and was so even during the Soweto riots in 1976, when the authorities glanced anxiously at Sharpeville in case it should explode.

Residents say that what keeps Sharpeville quiet is the memory of 1960, reinforced by a strong police presence. The police station, outside which the 1960 shootings took place, still stands, now surrounded by barbed wire fencing.

In a review of Sharpeville in the Johannesburg Star today, it was reported that one person interviewed was questioned by government officials the following day.

Nevertheless, the twentieth anniversary of the Sharpeville shootings, which will be closely monitored by the authorities this weekend, coincides with a cleverly orchestrated Black Consciousness campaign that is just beginning to embarrass the Government over the continued detention of Mr Nelson Mandela, the acknowledged leader of the South African National Congress. He has been in jail for 16 years.

It would be an extraordinary development if the South African Government were to even consider the release of Mr Mandela, who is serving a life sentence for sabotage. But it is significant that black leaders in South Africa think they are in a strong enough position to challenge the Government on the issue.

But it is also significant that the South African opposition party, normally quick to adopt popular causes, has not yet joined the "Free Mandela" bandwagon. It is aware that, although change is in the air, feelings about the events of the early 1960s—when South Africa disavowed violent revolution—remain strong. The opposition is also preparing itself for an early election, which Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, might call anytime. So this is hardly the time to resurrect old ghosts.

Soviet writer clashes with 'jeans culture'

Continued from page 1

But it is not the illegal trading that worries the Soviet authorities as much as the attitude of modern youth. Materialism in its most western sense is the reigning philosophy. A person is judged, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* remarked acidly, by the label he wears on the back pocket of his jeans.

Mr Lev Kuklin, a Soviet writer, gave a vivid example recently of what he called this "predatory consumerism" which he saw as a threat to real culture. He said he had spoken to an audience of teenagers. Most were well-dressed, few knew much about art or literature and none had any interest in it. They began to listen to him only when they found out he also wrote song lyrics and knew some famous singers.

One youth, in American jeans and wearing a cross round his neck—the latest fad which has intensely annoyed the authorities—wanted to know how much he had "raked in" from his songs. He had a pocket television, a car, a country cottage?

Mr Kuklin realized he was being judged, as he said, "in the western fashion," and so he cut the ground from under the youth by feigning surprise that the young man had never heard of his West German Uher



Major General John Acland, who commanded the Rhodesian Monitoring Force, being greeted by his wife and daughter at Heathrow Airport. He said his troops deserved "not one medal but two".

Trust launched to repair war damage

By David Watts

Amidst all the euphoria and self-congratulation surrounding the establishment of the new black-dominated Government in Zimbabwe, little has been heard of how the immediate problems of refugees and hunger would be tackled.

In London last night the Zimbabwe Refugee Trust was launched at a press conference to start raising the money needed to repair the damage done by years of guerrilla war. Run by two white and one black Zimbabweans, the Trust has its headquarters in London but it will second on of the trustees to Salisbury to oversee specific operations.

The trustees, Mr Cornelius Mubi, a former diplomat, Mr Robert Monro, a development economist and Mr Keith Maders, an accountant, estimate that they need immediately £250,000, with £50,000 over two years.

Survey brings more gloomy news for Mr Kennedy

From Michael Leapsman

New York, March 21

Senator Edward Kennedy's lax remote chance of gaining Democratic presidential nomination looks even more remote today after publication of a Louis Harris opinion poll in the New York Daily News.

It shows that, among voters in next week's primary here, the support of Carter is 34 per cent, compared with President Carter's 61 per cent.

Even in New York City, where the large Jewish population was expected to punish Mr Carter for his vacillating Middle East policy, the President has 55

Rhodesia leaders dismayed by spreading strikes

From Our Own Correspondent

Salisbury, March 21

More than 5,300 black workers were still out on strike today as the wave of industrial unrest spread to hitherto uninvolved plants throughout Rhodesia.

The week-long spate of walk-outs and go-slows has so far affected 27 plants in five main centres: Salisbury, Bulawayo, Umtali, Gwelo and Gwelo. A total of more than 8,700 people have stopped work since the strikes started at the beginning of the week and more than 750 of them have been dismissed as a result. Nearly 3,000 have returned to work since Monday.

By today there were still 11 industries affected by the dispute which is largely over pay and pensions. Among the most recent organizations to be affected was the Gwelo municipal council where 400 workers went on strike.

The Government spokesman said today that as the country was still under emergency

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Israel minister steps up tension over land

From Christopher Walker

Jerusalem, March 21

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the new Israeli Foreign Minister, spoke out strongly today in support of "what is described as the 'vital necessity' of building Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land seized by Israel in the 1967 war."

Coming less than a week before he is due to fly to Egypt to take part for the first time in the deadlocked negotiations on Palestinian autonomy, Mr Shamir's remarks appeared likely to further aggravate the international tensions that have arisen over Israel's settlement policy.

In his first interview since taking office, Mr Shamir said on Israel radio that it would be "no tragedy" if agreement on autonomy had not been reached by May 26, the date set down at Camp David.

That view sharply contradicts recent assertions by President Sadat and senior Egyptian ministers that the deadline must be met.

Mr Shamir regarded as one of the most hardline members of the Cabinet, refused to disclose whether or not he supported the plan to settle Jews in the centre of Hebron, the second-largest Arab town in occupied West Bank. This is only an internal Israeli debate," he said.

Mr Shamir added: "I support the belief that Jews may settle in all parts of Eretz Israel. Clearly, the timing and questions of priority, timing and various other considerations. This is a matter for the Government to consider."

Asked how Israel's settlement policy could be explained, Mr Shamir replied:

"On receiving visitors, I tell

them that all levelled at the po- lishing new settle- ment from the prece- dent about the new state of Israel."

"Clearly, if you or people in Israel must return then they will oppose to any e- beyond those im- manded from the port of the peace. Egypt, Mr. Sa- Today the peace is a fact. It and the state is a framework of the ment."

Meanwhile, the action in south deteriorated further a concerted out- shelling between Christian militias and guerrillas. For the first in artillery shells, Lebanon exploded and Israeli units were placed on a. The shells caused tonight, Israel the state and renegade Lebanese of the Christian turned down an of ceasefire made a day by the Palestin

Today's battles a hours in which he killed three civilian 14 in Lebanon. Complaint to UN: today it was compl United Nations Se ill about what it Israeli artillery south Lebanese to

Mr Vance defends stance on occupied territories

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, March 21

President Carter's policy towards the Middle East, once again under sustained attack on Capitol Hill, Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, testified to the Senate foreign relations committee yesterday and to the House committee today.

He defended the Administration's policy and its vote of a Security Council resolution in Israel three weeks ago.

The White House and the State Department were accused of deceit and ineptitude. Mr Vance was repeatedly asked to retract altogether his support of the United Nations condemnation of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, and steadfastly refused to do so.

He denied that the Administration had approved the resolution 48 hours after voting for it because of pressure from Israel and its supporters, and insisted that he was to blame for the failure in communication which led to the original American vote.

Vice-President Walter Mondale and Mr Robert President Carter's director, both stated today that America meant to Israel's settlement policy and wanted to

However, Mr So subjected to violent representatives of Jewish groups in

Russians worried by US use of China card

From Michael Blyz

Moscow, March 21

The Washington visit of Mr Zhang Wenjin, the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, and the announcement of further American military sales to China have further increased Soviet fears of a growing link between Washington and Peking.

A Tass report from Washington today said the two countries were strengthening their military alliance to undermine détente and stability in the world.

Investia yesterday stated that the Pentagon was "playing the China card" with some success, especially in the case of the "Maoists" engaged in a vicious slander campaign, had become Washington's zealous assistants. Mr Zhang's visit was aimed at coordinating action against Afghanistan.

In a comment on the agreed sale of military equipment to China, Pravda remarked: "So this is what stands behind the hints of 'parallel interests'. This is the real value of the talk about American-Chinese rapprochement as a 'stabilizing factor in Asia'."

Pravda said that the two countries' collusion had enabled the Chinese to transfer large army units from the Taiwan Straits last winter to the Vietnam border from where they soon launched an attack against the Vietnamese.

Ned Kelly spirit lives as brothers terrorize the outback

From Douglas Aiton

Melbourne, March 21

Two modern-day bushrangers are terrorizing the gem fields of outback Queensland. Police this week intensified their search for the men, who are brothers, and are known to be locals and expert riflemen. They have been haunting the area for six weeks and are closed today that the current level of Britain's value added tax (VAT) contribution to EEC revenue, which Mrs Thatcher has threatened to withhold in the absence of agreement at the summit, is running at about £67m a month.

It is estimated that refusal by Britain to pay VAT, which accounts for 43 per cent of the gross British contribution, would reduce total EEC budget revenue (roughly £9,000m) by between 8 and 9 per cent.

bushy beards, held up a jewelry buyer at Rubyvale and escaped in a car worth \$A2,500 (about £1,250).

The brothers are known to be expert bushmen and are armed with rifles, shotguns and pistols. Both are of medium build and wear jeans, shirts and zip-up cowboy boots. The elder brother, aged 23, wears a cowboy hat around his waist with a revolver in a holster tied to his thigh, and a broad-brimmed hat with a feather in it. The younger is 20.

The police search party, apart from the helicopters, includes an organized posse of several trail bikes, a four-wheel drive vehicle, a police dog, a tracker dog and about 140 to 150 police. The party is comparable, but more sophisticated, to that which searched for Ned Kelly,

Australia's most famous bush-ranger, more than 100 years ago.

During their search, police discovered several well-camouflaged camps used as hide-outs by the brothers, which were well supplied with food. These have been mainly around the Rubyvale area. The alleged offences now include arson, burglary and armed robbery.

Although police in Sydney have been alerted, local police believe the brothers will stay in the bush because they know it so well. They also believe that some local inhabitants, who regard them as folk heroes, have been supplying the brothers with food.

Inspector Basil Hicks, of Rockhampton police, said: "They have a pretty fair knowledge of the area out there and they are good bushmen and

horsemen. They're proving very hard to catch. The country is very wild and they know it."

Most of the people out there are very frightened. They want to see them caught. But there are some who regard them as folk heroes. There is certainly nothing colourful about them. The people we want are

RSEAS

Atollah Khomeini speaks out against the 'brutal action' Soviet Union in Afghanistan

By Allaway
March 21
Leaders today indicated
tensions with the Soviet
Union deteriorated sharply.
Khomeini spoke in
the last year of the
intervention in Afghan-
istan and occupiers.
Abol Hassan Bani-
Sadr said the Russians had
suggested made by
solve the crisis. He
Moscow that "as a
any nation we cannot
our presence and so
pull out of Afghanis-
tans, in speeches
ceremony at
Behesht Zahra cen-
mark the Iranian new
after the breakdown
between the two coun-
tries over the price
for exports to the
Union. The Iranians
reduce the "inter-
national" they were asking
Russians.

Mr Bani-Sadr has in-
made no secret of his
Soviet intentions, the
and others in the
leadership had shown
to support him.
oppression given by
ing Iranians was that,
at events in Afghanis-
the United States
Iran's main enemy in
ocean diplomats in
d seemed encouraged
weeks by Iran's
o the Soviet Union.
ay, in speeches by the
and Mr Bani-Sadr

dealing with issues facing Iran
the coming year, the United
States took a back seat to
criticism of the Russians.
The ayatollah said: "The
danger of Communist powers is
not less than that of America.
The Muslim people of
Afghanistan will soon achieve
victory and real independence,
and get rid of these so-called
supporters of the working
class."

Mr Bani-Sadr told the huge
crowd at the cemetery that the
Russians had given him an ex-
planation for their actions in
Afghanistan in a message from
Mr Yasir Arafat, the head of
the Palestine Liberation Organi-
zation. Mr Arafat was in Iran
last month apparently to lend
some weight to the Soviet case.
The Iranian President said he
had proposed a five-man dele-
gation from Iran, Algeria,
Iraq, Pakistan, and a Latin
American country, to investigate
Soviet claims of Western inter-
ference in Afghanistan.

These five people would see
if America is there and if the
Russians are, too, and
tell both to get out, he said.
"We said 'we cannot put up
with the presence of your
forces (in Afghanistan)'.
Addressing the Soviet Union,
Mr Bani-Sadr added: "If you
are listening we call on you
to declare your willingness un-
conditionally to withdraw from
Afghanistan as rapidly as
possible. It doesn't need any
negotiation."

Mr Bani-Sadr also attacked
neighbouring Iraq, which he

accused of organizing the recent
oil pipeline explosions in south
Iran. Earlier this week the two
countries reduced their diplo-
matic relations to the level of
charge d'affaires, apparently at
Iran's request.

Although laying down a plat-
form for law and order, the
ayatollah's statement was not
the ringing endorsement of
President Bani-Sadr that might
have been expected from com-
ments made by the President
earlier this week. It also made
no reference to one of the
President's main problems, the
the students holding the 49
American hostages.

In his speech, Mr Bani-Sadr
chose to interpret the ayatol-
lah's message as giving him
strong support, especially on
the question of control of the
military and the revolutionary
guards.

Extradition mission: Two
Iranian magistrates left Paris
tonight on their way to Panama
where they will present their
Government's case for extradi-
tion of the former Shah.—
Agence France-Press.

"Poorest monarch": Princess
Ashraf, the twin sister of the
Shah said in an interview on
American television that he is
"the poorest monarch in the
world" and she compared him
with Jesus Christ.

"I said that if it could be a
second Jesus Christ in the
world, he would be the second
one", she said.

She denied charges that she
and the Shah took billions of
dollars from Iran illegally when
they left.—AP.

Poles are urged to boycott elections

By Michael Scammell

More than 100,000 leaflets
have been distributed in
Poland's main cities during the
past week calling on Poles
either to boycott tomorrow's
elections or to exercise their
right to cross out some of the
names on the ballot papers.

This is the first time since
1947 that the automatic elec-
toral process of Poland has
been challenged in this way.
Although it is not expected to
affect the announced result (the
true figures are always kept
secret), the government is
clearly nervous about the num-
ber of possible abstentions.

Voters will elect 450 deputies
to the National Sejm (Parlia-
ment) and 6,740 members of
provincial assemblies. The
single list of candidates is put
forward by the Front for
National Unity, which is domi-
nated by the Polish United
Workers' Party (Communist).

News of the leaflet campaign
was given earlier this week by
Mr Jacek Kuron, a leading
spokesman for Poland's unof-
ficial Social Self-Defence Com-
mittee, shortly before being
arrested at his home in Warsaw.
He was released today after
being held for 48 hours.

Fire suicide: A Pole burnt him-
self to death in the main square
of Cracow today to protest at
the slaughter of 14,000 Polish
officers during the Second
World War. Witnesses said he
carried a placard accusing the
Soviet Union of the slaughter in
the Katyn Forest.—UPI.



Mexicans remember the Alamo: Three Mexican-American activists
occupy the roof of the Alamo in Texas and hoist red flags.

Stonehenge theory challenged in Australia

From Douglas Airon

Melbourne, March 21
A Melbourne scientist has
challenged the theory that
credits the builders of Stone-
henge with complex mathemat-
ical and astronomical knowledge.

Dr John Patrick believes that
the building of the monuments
did not involve complex mathe-
matics, but that they were built
only to please the eye.

"They (the builders of Stone-
henge) had very good practical
engineering skills in terms of
being able to move big bunks
of rock around using levers and
rollers, but I don't think there
is any evidence for them having
any great mathematical skills at
all."

Dr Patrick, aged 32, has com-
pleted three years' research at
Monash University in Mel-
bourne, supported by a govern-
ment grant. He began his re-
search on Stonehenge by
measuring precisely 65 stone
circles in Ireland and England.

He tested the dimensions
against the conventional theory
that Stonehenge was built to
precise measurements and an
alternative which allowed for
no mathematical skill.

Professor Christopher Wal-
lace, who was involved in the
research, said that there was no
mathematical evidence to sup-
port the conventional theory.

Dr Patrick said: "Modern
society is obsessed with roman-
tizing ancient societies and
making them as capable as our-
selves. This total fantasy about
them being basically modern
scientists is really screwed up."

American report attacks Britain's health service

By Lashman
March 21
A report on Britain's
Health Service has
been published here as part
of an investigation into the
establishment of a govern-
ment health system in the United
States.

The report, called National
Issues, The British Ex-
perience, is by Dr Cotton Lind-
beck, a professor of
medicine at Emory University,
Georgia, and Mr
Lindbeck of the Institute
of Medicine in London.
It is published by Roche Labora-
tories, Division of Hoffman-La-
Roche.

The report argues that it is a
mistake to assume that if you
system of allocating re-
sources by the criterion
to pay, you automati-
cally substitute the criterion of
cost for quality.

The authors believe that
this has not happened in
the NHS.

They offer this hypo-
thesis: Health care (with
reference to hospital
care) in the NHS is a
function of people's willingness

to suffer delay in its delivery.
Access to health care under
the NHS no longer goes to those
willing to pay the most for it.
It goes to those willing to wait
longest to receive it.

The report explains this in
some detail. It gives examples
of a person whose health would
improve more quickly with hospi-
tal care if it were available,
but who will accept outpatient
treatment as a second best. By
contrast, a person in less urgent
need of a hospital bed will
finally get one because he can
wait until he gets to the head
of the queue.

Looking ahead 30 years, Mr
Lindbeck writes: "The question
for the future of the NHS is
how far it will keep the loyalty
of people who return from an
affluent fortnight in Italy, Spain
or Maldives to wait months at
years for hernias, haemorrhoids
or varicose veins to be treated,
after being summoned to the
hospital when it suits the medi-
cal machinery."

He maintains that the NHS
can now be held together only
by increasing state control.
Unless the British are pre-
pared to accept increasing
censorship, which they now resent
and reject, the NHS is hardly
likely to last a second 30
years.

Dr Lindbeck criticizes the role
of the government bureaucracy
in allocating health resources,
maintaining that it operates
differently from, but in a no
less biased fashion than alloca-
tion by price.

Changed in Asia for city crimes

By Correspondent
Singapore, March 21
Three men were hanged
today in Kuala Lumpur
for offences against
Internal Security
Act, bringing the total to five
deaths.

The first three executions
under the Internal Security
Act were carried out
last week. Officials
said people were still in
the awaiting the de-
cision of the board.

Teng Khen, aged 27,
Siang Wah, aged 25,
were sentenced to death in 1976
for possession of fire-
arms. Their appeals for a
reprieve were rejected last week.
The first two batches of
appeals were carried out
forfeiture of appeals
rejected.

Indian lawyers injured in fight with police

Delhi, March 21.—Police hit
a judge, pointed a gun at
another and clubbed lawyers in
a fight at the Madhya Pradesh
state court in Gwalior yester-
day, reports reaching here
today said. At least 17 lawyers
were injured, two seriously.

The incident started when a
lawyer was allegedly assaulted
by police as he tried to talk to
a prisoner awaiting trial in the
police lock-up. According to
reports, this enraged a group of
lawyers, who manhandled the
policemen. Other policemen
intervened and beat up the
lawyers.

A judge who had come to the
aid of the lawyers was hit on
the wrist by a policeman and
another judge told at gunpoint
to stay away. The local police
chief has been suspended.—
Agence France-Press.

Turkish presidential poll no official candidates

By Fisek
March 21
Two houses of the Tur-
kish National Assembly
today elected a new presi-
dent for the republic for seven
years. The election was remark-
able for the lack of official
candidates.

Mr Ecevit has appealed
several times to the Prime
Minister to open a dialogue on
the election of the new Presi-
dent, but has been politely
turned down.

Mr Demirel's attitude has led
more and more observers here
to believe that the conservative
leader will not really mind if
the election drags on.

If a new President cannot be
elected by April 6, President
Koruturk will step down and
constitutionally will be replaced
by Mr Ibrahim Sibri Caglayanil,
president of the Senate.

the voting will go on and on, as
was the case in the election
seven years ago of the outgoing
president, Mr Fahri Koruturk,
who was himself a last minute
candidate decided on by both
parties.

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OPEC, unemployment, Détente and World War III?

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Saturday Review

One last trip

by Richard Holmes

Across his diary ledger for 1930, F. Scott Fitzgerald scrawled: "The crash! Zelda and America". For Fitzgerald, then 34, the two catastrophes—psychological and economic—were mysteriously involved. He coined a phrase to link them: "Emotional bankruptcy". It meant that the party was over, the summer palaces were closing, it was time to go home.

The Fitzgeralds embarked on one last trip to Europe in the brittle spring of 1930. They docked at Genoa and took a set of rooms at Berolmini's, with a green tile bathroom suite and a big brass bedstead, where Zelda obsessively practised her ballet exercises. Scott began a story called *The Rough Crossing* about a successful American playwright, his drunken jealous wife and a heavily symbolic mid-Atlantic tempest. "Looking out at the night, I saw that there was no chance for them unless she could make amonement, propitiate the storm. It was Adrian's love that was demanded of her. Deliberately she unclasped her pearl necklace, lifted it to her lips—for she knew that with it went the freshest, fairest part of her life—and flung it out into the gale." Such gestures still came easily to him, to everyone. The story was rapidly published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, a fashionably illustrated weekly for smart East Coast families, which paid him \$3,500. This was then Fitzgerald's standard fee, making him the highest-earning pure fiction writer in America with an annual income comfortably over \$30,000 and still climbing.

They motored leisurely up through the Riviera in an open Renault towards Paris, turning aside as far as Villefranche in pursuit of a *salade nicoise*. To his agent back in New York, Harold Ober, Scott wrote: "The Rough Crossing has been sent plus I've almost finished another. I hope to God the novel will be done this summer. But it wasn't, because first of all there had to be the Crash. The Fitzgeralds' whole world had to break down with it and a new kind of writing had to emerge from the ruins, with a new kind of story to tell: not Boom, but Bankruptcy." The strange thing was that Scott Fitzgerald seemed to see it coming from a long way off. Even before *The Great Gatsby*, in his least-remembered novel of 1922, Fitzgerald had plotted out the moral destruction of Anthony and Gloria Patch, an exemplary couple who, after a more than personal nature, are ruined by a temperamental but useless shimmering socialites by force of economic circumstance. "I wish *The Beautiful and Damned* had been a maturely written book," Fitzgerald said long after, because it was all true. We ruined ourselves, he has never honestly thought that we ruined each other."

Many of the forgotten newspaper interviews that he gave at the very height of his success also pointed unexpectedly to some imminent catastrophe of a more than personal nature. Ambushed once by a young reporter from *New York World* among the potted glories of the Plaza Hotel in 1927, he was congratulated on the Broadway version of *Gatsby* and politely questioned about his Hollywood script for United Artists' latest flapper girl, Constance Talmadge, rumoured to be entitled *Lipstick*. By way of reply, Fitzgerald started talking fluently about Nietzsche, Dostoyevski and Oswald Spengler's *Decline of the West*. "The idea that we're the greatest people in the world because we have the most money in the world is ridiculous," he announced.

"Wait until this wave of prosperity is over! Wait ten or fifteen years! Wait until the next war in the Pacific or against some European combination! . . . It is impossible for an American to have a real credo yet. . . . There has never been an American tragedy. There have only been great failures."

The reporter was genuinely puzzled, then disbelieving, then slyly amused. He confided to his readers: "Here I was interviewing the author of *This Side of Paradise*, the voice and embodiment of the jazz age; its producer and its beneficiary, a popular novelist, a movie scenarist, a dweller in the gilded palaces, a master of servants, only to find F. Scott Fitzgerald, himself, shorn of these associations, forecasting doom, death and damnation to his generation in the spirit, if not in the rhetoric, of your typical spittoon philosopher. In a pleasant corner of the Plaza tea garden he sounded like an intellectual Samson prophesying the crumbling of its marble columns."

Yet the cracks were everywhere in the late Twenties for those who had eyes to see. It is true that Fitzgerald was not really capable of a sustained social or intellectual analysis, like his old friend from Princeton University, the critic Edmund Wilson, then at the *New Republic*. Perhaps he did make a faintly comic prophet of the cocktail hour. But as an artist, in the pale hung-over mornings of endless silent hotel rooms, he could glimpse the ominous shapes and put them down.

In the first of his post-Crash essays, published for a few hundred dollars in *Scribner's Magazine*, he would write: "By 1928 Paris had grown suffocating. With each new shipment of Americans spewed up by the Boom the quality fell off, until towards the end there was something sinister about the crazy boatloads. They were no longer the simple Ma and Pa and son and daughter, infinitely superior in their qualities of kindness and curiosity to the corresponding class in Europe, but fantastic neanderthals who believed something, something vague, that you remembered from a very cheap novel. I remember an Italian on a steamer who promanaged the deck in an American reserve officer's uniform, picking quarrels in broken English with Americans who criticized their own institutions in the bar." The critics in the bar certainly included Fitzgerald himself, and the very cheap novel stood in for the one he could not bring himself to write until nine years after *Gatsby*.

In Paris in the summer of 1929 everyone was talking of James Joyce going blind, the kind of thing that was the world's end. The Fitzgeralds' whole world had to break down with it and a new kind of writing had to emerge from the ruins, with a new kind of story to tell: not Boom, but Bankruptcy." The strange thing was that Scott Fitzgerald seemed to see it coming from a long way off. Even before *The Great Gatsby*, in his least-remembered novel of 1922, Fitzgerald had plotted out the moral destruction of Anthony and Gloria Patch, an exemplary couple who, after a more than personal nature, are ruined by a temperamental but useless shimmering socialites by force of economic circumstance.

"I wish *The Beautiful and Damned* had been a maturely written book," Fitzgerald said long after, because it was all true. We ruined ourselves, he has never honestly thought that we ruined each other."

Many of the forgotten newspaper interviews that he gave at the very height of his success also pointed unexpectedly to some imminent catastrophe of a more than personal nature. Ambushed once by a young reporter from *New York World* among the potted glories of the Plaza Hotel in 1927, he was congratulated on the Broadway version of *Gatsby* and politely questioned about his Hollywood script for United Artists' latest flapper girl, Constance Talmadge, rumoured to be entitled *Lipstick*. By way of reply, Fitzgerald started talking fluently about Nietzsche, Dostoyevski and Oswald Spengler's *Decline of the West*. "The idea that we're the greatest people in the world because we have the most money in the world is ridiculous," he announced.

"Wait until this wave of prosperity is over! Wait ten or fifteen years! Wait until the next war in the Pacific or against some European combination! . . . It is impossible for an American to have a real credo yet. . . . There has never been an American tragedy. There have only been great failures."

were not peaches." The Fitzgeralds hurried south again, to ripen off in the sun at Cannes.

Relations between Scott and Zelda were strained to breaking point. In the daytime there was Scott and the beach; but at night it was a war of attrition. For a moment, Hemingway became Fitzgerald's confessor. He wrote: "My latest tendency is to collapse about 11 pm and, with the tears flowing from my eyes or the gin rising to their level and leaking over, tell interested friends of acquaintances that I haven't a friend in the world and likewise care for nobody, generally including Zelda, and often implying current company—after which the current company tend to become less current and I wake up in strange rooms in strange places. The rest of the time I stay alone working or trying to work or brooding or reading detective stories."

Loss of grip on his writing haunted Fitzgerald like a nightmare or a wasting fever. "Your analysis of my inability to get my serious work done is too kind in that it leaves out the dissipation, but among acts of God it is possible that the five years between my leaving the army and finishing *Gatsby* (1919-1924), which included three novels, about 50 popular stories and a play and numerous articles, movies, may have taken all I had to say too early, adding that all the time we were living at top speed in the gayest worlds we could find. This *au fond* is what really worries me."

But Fitzgerald also saw the same sickness and emptiness in those around him. He took to quizzing and questioning their rich friends, the Gerald Murphys, with a detached "supercilious scrutiny," as if they had suddenly stopped being old acquaintances and become rare members of a dying species. "You can't expect anyone to like or stand a continual feeling of analysis and sub-analysis, and criticism—on the whole unfriendly," wrote Sara Murphy, and stopped inviting him round.

As autumn came, hot and dusty over the corniches, and the swimming was over and "the year's octopi had grown up in the crevices of the rocks," the Fitzgeralds moved restlessly from resort to resort. On the night of the Wall Street Crash in October they were staying at the hotel Beau-Rivage in St. Raphael, which had stained-glass windows that kept out the glare of the Mediterranean. "Off there in a little village, we had such a horrible feeling of insecurity," Fitzgerald said later. "We had so little information from home, and we kept hearing these reports about business conditions until we didn't know but that at any moment the United States would go smash and we'd be cut adrift." But they were far adrift already.

Letters, arrived from New York from his publisher Maxwell Perkins, from Edmund Wilson, begging them to come home. But it was not yet time. They returned to Paris and wintered miserably in a luxurious apartment at 10 rue Pergolèse, near the Bois de Boulogne. Zelda danced and danced for hours each day at Madame Egarova's unheated studio and typed *Flapper* articles for *College Humor*. Scott drank at the Ritz bar with wide-eyed Princeton tutors and wrote disjointed social sketches for *The New Yorker* and *McCall's*, followed by odd communications to Harold Ober.

"New Yorker offers OK but uninteresting—as for Mrs.

Angell (whoever she is) I will gladly modify my style and subject matter for her but she will have to give me her beautiful body first and I dare say the price is too high." When *McCall's* turned down a piece entitled *Girls Believe in Girls* he threatened to sue them. His fee for *Post* stories rose to \$4,000. Then the cruellest month finally came round.

On April 23, 1930, Zelda Fitzgerald, aged 29, was admitted *en cas d'urgence* to the Malmesbury hospital outside Paris, suffering from nervous exhaustion and delusions. Two months later she had been moved to a large, country-house asylum called Les Rives de Prangins, 12 miles outside Geneva, on the shore of the lake. The initial diagnosis by Dr. Otto Forel was schizophrenia, aggravated by Scott's drinking and intense mutual competitiveness. A plan to consult Carl Jung in Zurich (recommended by Edmund Wilson) was abandoned since Jung was reputed only to treat neurotic cases. Zelda was to remain at Prangins for 16 months, sometimes skiing and basket-weaving, at other times suffering terrible relapses, hallucinations and agonising screams. A short story she had written "would be incomprehensible," Scott told Maxwell Perkins, "without a *Waste Land* footnote." Now the Crash had really come, and Fitzgerald found himself in a new kind of Europe, child of the alien, brooding, world of Thomas Mann's *Magical Mountain* and T. S. Eliot's sombre poetry.

For five months Fitzgerald wrote virtually nothing except two *Post* stories. His visits to Prangins were strictly limited. He spent time sending notes and flowers to Zelda and assembling a diagnostic dossier for Dr. Forel. He lived in hotels in Lausanne, and commuted monthly to Paris, where little Scottie was staying with in-laws.

In the whole of his well-publicized career since 1920 this is the most obscure, the least documented, the most private episode. He saw almost nobody. One of the few exceptions was a night he got drunk with Thomas Wolfe in a little Alpine village and dreamed Wolfe had reached up and fused all the power-lines and they ran away over the hill.

Edmund Wilson, who had himself recently recovered from a minor breakdown, received a brief letter in New York. "The thought that you'd survived it helped me through some despairing moments in Zelda's case."

She was drunk with music that seemed a crazy opiate to her and her whole cerebral tradition was something locked in such an absolutely impenetrable safe inside her that it was months before the doctors could reach her at all. We hope to get home for Christmas." But not yet, not yet.

Blame, responsibility, guilt—these questions were to torture what remained of the Fitzgeralds' private lives together. Clearly there had been some element of a lover's self-destructive pact. Years later Scott was to write to an American psychiatrist at Zelda's clinic in Baltimore: "Liquor on my mouth is sweet to her; I cherish her most extravagant hallucinations."

Equally clearly they had

exploited each other—and the professional exploiter, the writer, had won, if only because his craft ultimately gave him the greater survival power. Indeed one can sometimes believe that Zelda deliberately sacrificed herself to provide Scott with literary material. (The issue is examined in depth in a remarkable biography of Zelda by Nancy Milford, drawing on both Prangins and Baltimore clinical files.) Yet the photograph albums they kept during this whole period show a different, simpler human truth: they show Zelda's drawn, dark dissatisfaction with herself and Scott's ever-anxious, ever-hopeful, wounded kindness.

The Crash also produced a slow, painful transformation in the artist. Ultimately this destroyed Fitzgerald's marketability as a popular American magazine writer (he received his first rejection slip for a decade, from the *Post* in January 1931, and thereafter his price fell steadily); but it also gave him the breakthrough into his elusive novel, *Tender is the Night*. Sometimes in the autumn of 1930, in one of those lonely Swiss hotel rooms, Fitzgerald wrote a brilliant 20-page short story entitled *One Trip Abroad*, which set out a kind of scale-map or blueprint for the full-size work he would eventually complete in America in 1934.

Nicole and Nelson Kelly are a young, moneyed, intelligent and handsome American couple who come to Europe in search of self-fulfilment. They are gifted, modest and intensely alive. What they lack is simply the toughness and self-knowledge that comes from having to work and struggle to exist in a series of short, beautifully observed and graduated scenes, their emotions and ideals are progressively bankrupted by the aimlessness of their drifting expatriate life in search of the good life, "the carnival by the sea". With a new, coldly glittering authority, Fitzgerald executes in this story a miniature five-act gothic tragedy, complete with doppelgänger, lavish European backdrops and dramatic weather effects, in a tradition that belongs to the haunted moral tales of Browden Brown, Hawthorne and Henry James, but which is also something strikingly original—the mature Fitzgerald, post-*Gatsby*, post-Crash.

The madness which becomes a central force in *Tender is the Night* ("through verdurous glooms and winding mossy ways"), as an emblem of the entire decade, here still exists only in the form of an Alpine storm. But Fitzgerald found that his experience both as a man and an artist had combined again into a single perception. He had found his subject once more, and now it was tragic.

"This is the story of a trip abroad, and the geographical element must not be slighted. Having visited North Africa, Italy, the Riviera, Paris and points in between, it was not

surprising that eventually the Kellys should go to Switzerland. Switzerland is a country where very few things begin, but many things end."

"Though there was an element of choice in their other ports of call, the Kellys went to Switzerland because they had to. They had been married a little more than four years when they arrived one spring day at the lake that is the centre of Europe—a placid, smiling spot with pastoral hillsides, a backdrop of mountains and waters of postcard blue, waters that are a little stultic beneath the surface with all the misery that has dragged itself here from every corner of Europe. Weariness to recuperate and death to die. There are schools, too, and young people splashing at the sunny places; there is Bunvard's dungeon and Calvin's city and the ghosts of Byron and Shelley still sail the dim shores by night; but the Lake Geneva that Nelson and Nicole came to was the dreary one of exotism and faded days. . . . Often they wondered why, of all those who sought pleasure over the face of Europe, this misfortune should have come to them."

Fitzgerald is still writing about the rich, the beautiful, the idle rich, but the context is transformed. Their glamour faded, they are sick, used up, probably doomed. Their failure to understand their own position, their own fate, is presented with cool, almost kindly detachment. The sense of finally reaching the dead centre of the expatriate experience, the Lake of Geneva like a drainhole of wasted emotions, a prettily disguised maelstrom, "sinister beneath the surface with all the misery that has dragged itself here" is powerfully suggested.

Pearl necklaces do not have to be thrown to mark the spot. Nor are the references to Byron and Shelley merely coincidental, *renseignements touristiques*. They bid farewell to the departing shapes of an entire Romantic tradition, which Fitzgerald had once hoped to emulate in the *Gatsby* days, to relive and renew by combining literary imagination with commercial wealth. Art and the Good Life, the Old World and the New, in a kind of perpetual carnival, the "many fêtes" with which he was to dedicate *Tender is the Night* to the Murphys. The Murphys who were themselves to become ghostlike denizens of the Swiss sanatoriums, one of their children fatally ill and their business at home falling.

The moral, if there is ever a moral in art, was the one written a century earlier by the expatriate Shelley in Venice: "They learn in suffering what they teach in song." Almost as a symbol of the passing of the old order, Fitzgerald received a telegram in January, 1931, that his beloved father had died in Maryland.

The stories and autobiographical pieces which Fitzgerald fitfully wrote over the next 18 months are among the most memorable, and for the European reader the most accessible, of his entire work. They include the famous *Babylon Revisited* (December, 1930, based on a visit to Scottie in Paris); *Echoes of the Jazz Age* (August, 1931); *Crazy Sundays* (December, 1931, set in Hollywood); *Family in the Wind* (Spring, 1932); and *My Lost City* (July, 1932, describing New York in a manner comparable to Baudelaire's prose poems about Paris). They point forward not only to the novel, but also to the series of confessional *Crack-up* pieces

which Edmund Wilson faithfully saved and edited for his old friend, long after 1945, when he was almost forgotten. Fitzgerald found them increasingly difficult to place in magazines, and his income after reaching the dizzy heights of \$37,000 in 1931 (most of it absorbed by sanatorium bills), collapsed numbly to \$16,000 in 1932. His own personal Crash was complete.

At Prangins, Zelda's temporary cure was at last announced in June 1931. They spent a brief holiday at Annecy, and Zelda later wrote a rambling article carefully cut and polished by Scott. "We walked at night towards a café blooming with Japanese lanterns, white shoes gleaming like radium in the damp darkness. It was like the good gone times when we still believed in summer hotels and the philosophies of popular songs. Another night we danced a Wiener waltz, and just simply sweep around."

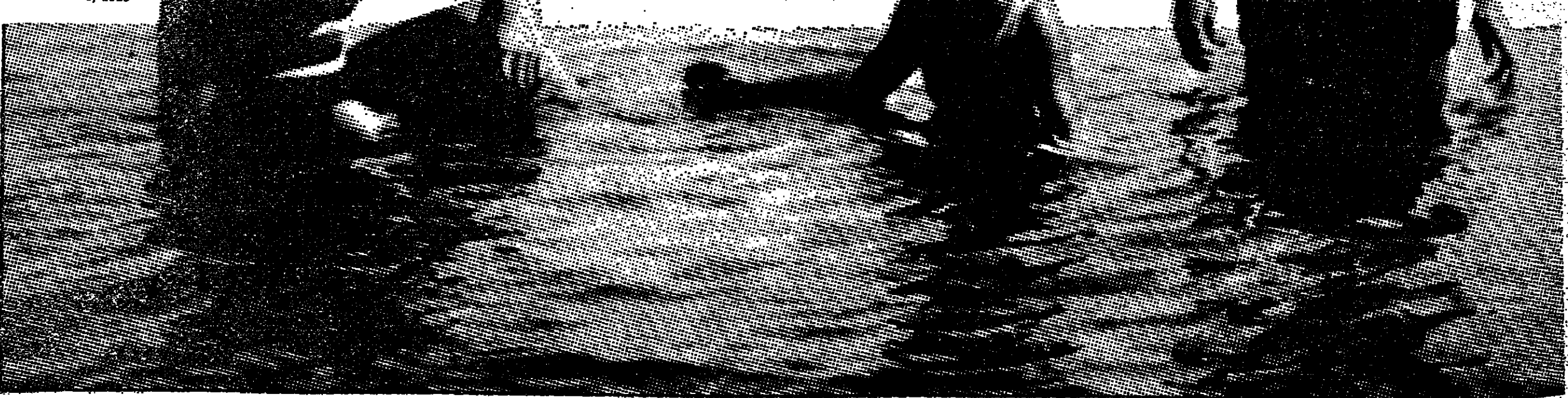
Fitzgerald's new grip on "their material" is even shown in his exacting editing. Zelda had originally written: "Another night we learned to Wiener waltz, and once we regimented our dreams to the imperative commands of a nostalgic orchestra floating down the formal paths of the garden of a better hotel—" but he was having none of it.

In September 1931 the Fitzgeralds finally took the boat home to America, and the Depression. Even in his personal unhappiness and exhaustion, Scott was acutely aware that they were just one tiny part of some sort of mass exodus, some sort of general American retreat, and that the new decade would be hard, dangerous and uncertain. Edmund Wilson was already stumping the country, writing a set of social conscience articles which would become *The American Litters*. Fitzgerald mailed on ahead of him a dead-pan story entitled *Between Three and Four*, with a wooden plot about a businessman leaping from a skyscraper window. But the opening paragraph had an altogether different, more moving resonance:

"This happened nowadays, with everyone somewhat discouraged. A lot of less fortunate spirits cracked when money troubles came to be added to all the nervous troubles accumulated in the prosperity—neurosis being a privilege of people with a lot of extra money. And some cracked merely because it was in the air, or because they were used to the great, golden figure of plenty standing behind them, as the idea of prudence and glory stands behind the French, and the idea of 'the thing to do' used to stand behind the English. Almost everyone cracked a little."

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Grateful acknowledgements due to Frances Scott Fitzgerald, Mary Hemingway, Charles Scribner's sons, and Jean Preston, Curator of scripts, Princeton University.

The Fitzgeralds with daughter Scottie in Cannes in the summer of 1929



Looking ahead to the British invasion of Miami . . . and a timely word about jet lag

Fred Emery

Backs to the Budgets

Mrs Thatcher last Tuesday nearly voted in favour of a £120 increase in child benefit. Indignantly, of course. She swerved instinctively towards the "aye" lobby in the Commons when she spotted four Conservative MPs there, but was sharply headed off when it was realized that they were rebels voting with the Labour Opposition. Coming so soon after the House of Lords defeat for the Government over school transport charges, the Prime Minister was not amused.

The unenviable quality of the incident illustrates the build-up for two budgets—Sir Geoffrey Howe's on Wednesday, and the great row over Britain's EEC budget contribution resuming a few days afterwards in Brussels. Conservatives are faced with distinct dilemmas, no less acute for being different. They do, after all, champion their claim to be the European party as well as the party of the family.

The still smoldering backbench revolt over child benefit goes to the heart of the politics involved in administering the dose of nasty medicine due in the Chancellor's Budget. The Government, acknowledging in Sir Keith Joseph's arresting phrase that "we probably lost the first six months" in office coming to grips with its inheritance, seems now bent on spooning down all the tough measures at once.

Several Ministers convey agreement, if foreboding, that there is

little sense at this stage trying to soften the blow—although in the odd way we run government, no Cabinet member outside the Prime Minister's immediate Treasury team seems to be aware of what the Budget actually contains. They will be "told" at the pre-Budget Cabinet.

Public spending will at last be cut heavily, and the poor and the unemployed will have to take their cuts along with the rest. The long heralded intention to "de-index" most social and supplementary benefits, and to remove the earnings-related element from unemployment benefit, go undented: in plain language it means that payments will be reduced in real terms because they will no longer be kept in line with the increase in prices.

The notion that all this can be contemplated without political relief or counterbalance, implicitly weighing on manifesto commitments, is what has astonished the possibly 50-strong group of Tories committed to increasing child benefit. If Sir Geoffrey announces no more than a 75p increase there will be deep frustration.

This is not simply a question of the "wets" having no stomach for the battle against inflation. A party divide of course exists, with a sizeable element believing that the Government itself is "wet"—witness the recent leading article in *Crossbow* questioning "Has our tough new Tory government failed already?" On the issue of child benefit, an interest-

ing alliance of young liberal-wing Tories with some right-wingers has sprung up. What they need above all, for their own voters, is something to help the medicine go down.

Their commitment to maintaining child benefit at least at its April 1979 £4 value would require next November an increase to at least £5.20; this sounded at times close to an ideology—of beating the "why work?" syndrome. If child benefit is not increased in line with inflation then it will remain that child support will be less for the working family than it is for the unemployed. The argument has been made endlessly by Conservatives.

Some of the campaigners have told me that they live in hope of persuading the Chancellor, even at the eleventh hour; others that they see no hope, and that they will have to vote against the Budget. The Lords here will be of no avail.

My own reckoning is that they have little hope of a change of heart in the Treasury at this stage. The dominant group of economy ministers seems convinced that we must batten down for another tough year before things begin to get better. Did not the Prime Minister trust that we shall be out of the wood in two or three years in her interview with *Die Welt*? Do not burgeoning North Sea revenues beckon next year?

Indeed there is another, untrumped message, that things may already have turned the corner. Again quoting from an extraordinary and

fascinating radio interview in the BBC *Analysis* programme that got little notice during my recent convalescence it was put thus:

"Sir Keith Joseph: . . . What is not visible is that all over the country new businesses are coming into existence in new fields."

Mary Goldring: Cross your heart? Sir Keith: Cross my heart; in small numbers, perhaps, but what astonishes and delights me is the evidence that there is business vitality, despite all the discouragement."

Sir Keith went on to hope that the 17 per cent minimum lending rate would be "very temporary"; that public expenditure cuts would lead to a "systematic fall in inflation that will start late this year, and will begin to have fairly significant effects next year . . ." Clearly, be but patient awhile.

This theme of holding on until relief comes is not one which particularly helps secure our case at Brussels. There we must insist on equity, and equity now. But many in the Cabinet, and still the majority of Conservatives in the Commons, are appalled at the prospect that they are helping to wreck the EEC after spending much of their political lives trying to gain admission.

The key to a solution, and the one leader our Ministers seem unsure of dealing with, is President Giscard d'Estaing. No one is going to say it publicly beforehand, but his domestic political problems in France are appreciated. And there is some willingness to settle outstanding

issues with him at the same time as Britain's budget problem—provided no crude horse-trading, or trade-off, is suggested.

If, for some reasons best known to himself, President Giscard is determined that Britain shall be offered no more than a derisory sum, then we are in for a very difficult period. The decision that we would then "have to consider" withholding Britain's VAT-related contributions is meant to be taken seriously.

But more likely is the offer of a sum that will test the Government's judgment. Clearly it is not going to be politically acceptable in Britain for Mrs Thatcher to come home with the half a loaf she has already refused. What is acceptable? £200m, £300m, off our net contribution? The all-party political support Mrs Thatcher is likely to get from the Commons on Monday is also treacherous.

Some in the Labour Party would love to set her up for a failure which could, in Mr Roy Mason's words, be the spark that set off the chain reaction for withdrawal.

The now-or-never approach, so obvious in the run-up to Dublin, is again being ardently pursued by Mrs Thatcher's helpers. Some defusing of expectations in the coming week might be no bad thing if, as seems in the cards, it will take another autumn after this one to get the kind of constructive agreement we say we are seeking. Battles of the budget, domestic or foreign, rarely provide any winners.

Something unique about Aldabra

The Royal Society is trying to raise £500,000 to discharge one of the more curious obligations lingering from the days of Empire: wardenship of the Seychelles atoll of Aldabra.

The atoll, which comprises four main islands and innumerable islets surrounding a shallow lagoon, is a unique example of evolution in isolation and therefore of great scientific interest. Like the better known Galapagos island group off the coast of Ecuador, Aldabra's remoteness and general uselessness to anyone have protected it.

The closest the atoll ever came to being despoiled by man was in 1966, when plans to build a airstrip were mooted; scientists and conservationists reacted noisily and the plans were defeated. In the process Mr Tam Dalyell set a record of sorts by raising more than 50 questions on the matter in the Commons and recruiting others to continue the barrage even after the Speaker had ruled him *hors de combat* on that particular subject.

It remains an open question whether the campaigners or devaluation in 1967 finally put paid to plans for Aldabra's development.

In those days Aldabra was part of the British Indian Ocean Territory, and the British connexion has persisted. The Royal Society made haste to open a research programme as soon as it perceived the threat to the area and has been there ever since as lessee, first from the BIOT and since independence in 1976 from the Republic of the Seychelles. "Under the Royal Society's wardenship," says the fund-raising brochure, "some 100 scientists from seven countries have put in 50 man-years of research."

The Seychellois have set up a public trust to oversee the management of the Aldabra programme from March 31. Money raised by the Royal Society and a number of other scientific and conservation agencies, including the World Wildlife Fund and the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, is to be invested to meet annual running costs estimated at £50,000.

Mr David Griffin, secretary of the Aldabra Research Committee, says the Prince of Wales has given some money, though the Royal Society is not at liberty to say how much. Other individuals approached include the singer Olivia Newton-John, who said she had already given to help save the seals in the Wash, and former Beagle Paul McCartney, who was in a Tokyo jail at the time. Aldabra is 260 miles north-

west of Madagascar, the nearest mainland, and is singularly lacking in the kinds of things—soil, fresh water, safe anchorages—that man finds attractive in islands.

The atoll is about twenty-one miles long and nine miles wide. Its lagoon, sixteen by five miles, is one of the world's largest. Oceanic islands of whatever type inevitably develop as important breeding grounds; where sub-species have evolved, or significant numbers of otherwise scarce creatures have found refuge, their importance is immeasurable.

Birds unique to Aldabra include sub-species of the sacred ibis, of the white-throated rail, which on Aldabra alone is flightless, and of the Madagascar kestrel, an improbably tiny bird of prey and possibly the smallest raptor in the world.

Sea turtles used to be abundant in the waters around Aldabra, which is still an important nesting area, and there is some indication that numbers may be on the increase despite the difficulties of enforcing anti-poaching legislation, however strict. But the animal for which Aldabra is best known, among those who have heard of it at all, is the giant Indian Ocean tortoise, of which there are an incredible 150,000 or more.

"Aldabra's ecosystem is the only one in the world today where the dominant herbivore is a reptile," says the Royal Society's brochure. And what a reptile—a lumbering monster weighing as much as 600lb and more than six feet long. Their longevity is, of course, legendary: scientists have named Napoleon and Captain Cook as acquaintances of giant tortoises that have lived well past the middle of this century.

It is hardly surprising that in their study of the creatures the scientists tend to take the long view. In a volume of *The Terrestrial Ecology of Aldabra* taken from the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society and published separately in 1979, a team from the Oxford University zoology department writes: "Fossil evidence suggests that Aldabra has been inundated and subsequently recolonized by giant tortoises three or four times in the last 170,000 years."

The authors go on, at some reconite length, to raise the image of hosts of floating tortoises surviving as amphibians while some wretched reptilian Prime Mover rained down a series of Great Floods through the millennia.

Tony Samstag



Detail from a Byzantine icon of St Parasceve, painted about 1300.

A positively Byzantine affair in Birmingham

Have you ever worried about Pachomios and the idea of sanctity? Put it another way: what are your feelings about the deservedly unpublished life of St Eirene, the Empress? If such questions tickle your curiosity, this is the weekend for answering them. The Centre for Byzantine Studies at Birmingham University is holding its annual symposium for scholars from all over the world.

Over the past 14 years this merry and learned gathering has contributed largely to the revival of interest in things Byzantine, both scholarly and popular. At the annual meeting of the Centre of the University last month, the Vice-Chancellor, Lord Hunter of Newington, said: "Our Centre for Byzantine

Studies, which 15 years ago was nothing, today is a leading international centre which attracts hundreds of scholars from all over the world."

This year the theme is the Byzantine Saint. The 38 speakers from a dozen countries include for the first time a distinguished Soviet art historian and two Bollandists—members of a small and almost legendary community of Jesuit scholars in Belgium which has been devoted for more than three centuries to editing the *Lives of the Saints* (*Acta Sanctorum*).

The Bollandists began by publishing the *Saints for January* in 1643. By 1940 they had reached *Saints for December*. There are cautious hopes

that they will reach the *Saints for December* 31, and so climb their holy Everest, by the end of the century.

There will be papers on the pre-Christian and oriental origins of the Holy Man (and Woman); his hagiography (auto-hagiography and anti-hagiography); the Saint as a social, political, and economic phenomenon; the art, cult, relics, and celebration of the Wonderworking Saint; and the remarkable variety of the Byzantine Saint, from the Forty Martyrs to the Holy Fool.

Old Byzantine hands will be surprised if the ingenious director, Professor Anthony Bryer, does not provide some *comp de theatre* in addition to the gruelling course of papers. They

remember with alarm the demonstration of Greek Fire, the re-enactment of the Coronation Ceremony of the Fourteen Beds, and the loan of pictures from the Queen's collection at Windsor.

One year there was the authentic Serbian *guslar*, who did not turn up; another the player of the Pontic lyre, who did, an aged figure in baggy blue national costume who accompanied proceedings on his primitive, one-stringed fiddle.

This is the weekend that Byzantinists gather from around the world to examine our roots to our golden past, and to glory in a lively new *omphalos* of international scholarship in Birmingham.

Philip Howard

The millions that cannot buy success

Among the many doubtless apocryphal tales of Manchester City Football Club's spending habits is one concerning their talent spotter who was sent to watch a young player at a Fourth Division club and sent back a report saying: "He was not better than the rest." The reply was said to be: "Buy them all."

City have attracted such stories by arriving at today's 100th derby match with Manchester United in danger of relegation to the Second Division after spending well over £4m on players in less than 15 months.

Red account

Manchester City appear to have thrown good money after bad, and that adage, may find support on the terraces, but in purely financial terms they have only recently come out of intense transfer activity with a red account. Until the signing this month of Reeves from Norwich City for £1,250,000, the dealings undertaken by Malcolm Allison, since he returned to the club in January 1979 showed that he had sold nine players for £2,625,000 and bought nine for £3,245,000. The deficit, on unofficial figures, was £621,000, or the price of a moderately promising Second Division player.

Such is the outward absurdity of the transfer market that City seem to have contributed to the spiral by making that last remark into one of the more disturbing facts of football life. They paid £756,000 for one Mick Robinson who came into the category of a moderately promising young Second Division forward for whom Mr Allison's first offer was reported to be £350,000. The extra £406,000 was described by the general manager, Tony Book, as "just backing your own judgement."

While upholders of the transfer system maintain that the money remains in football, and certainly a large proportion of the deals involve previous unfinished business between the clubs concerned, the rate at which Manchester City have bought and sold since Mr Allison's arrival has been out of the ordinary.

The reasons for this financially astounding activity that has seen numerous team changes and such bizarre features as a second XI valued at nearly £2m and some clubs cup resists against clubs who hardly knew where their next match ball was coming from, may not be far from the centre circle of today's local

derby at Old Trafford good times, and City some excellent team recently as two seasons club has been accused the cult that is M United.

The curious situation is that a chairmanship of Pete Manchester City have worked harder at it than any other club. Mr Swales, a severe man who put into his work at M.U. he did into his radio-vision businesses. He is a full-time adm

also serving as a Football councilor, and a seasonal interest shows he is keen to remain in the Press that is, and necessarily critical, often baffling activity, pitch is in itself an

Mr Swales is somewhat of a "where going?" and there, rumours of Mr Allison's departure. It was Mr promotion to team in 1972 and the later dep the gentle manager, Jo that caused much up the boardroom, and of Mr Swales emerged man in 1973.

The decision to a flamboyant Mr Allison direct the club, after out of the spotlight, so palpably enjoys, as about City's consummation to be considered a tri club, in the way that are always described.

Large cig

Mr Allison was clearly going to get the best of the transfer market, players who were transferred, but if City that Mr Allison's large check suits, large character would quite the quiet, internal, coated David Sexton. United, they were won.

Today finds United to top of the First Division City fourth from bottom Liverpool, who lead by six points, have not an expensive player, months, Liverpool occa buy replacement parts in Chester City try to tal the factory. Meanwhile Sexton modestly and creatively successfully re middle course, to the annoyance of all at Man who the very slight irrita those at Anfield.

Norman

Lords of the desert, seeking the simple life

General de Gaulle, a colleague remarked on the flight out, had once said on his way to the Middle East: "I am setting off for the complicated Orient with a few simple ideas." Six days of hopping from one Gulf country to another in the press retinue of President Giscard d'Estaing gives one a pretty good impression of international airports and of large American-style caravanserais; of the difference between "dry" and "semi-dry" and "wet" emirates; and of the fantastic new wealth which has flown from oil, with a little bit of folklore thrown in.

This hardly provides the key to the complicated Orient. But it does lead to a few simple—if not simplistic—observations: the first that for the people of the Arabian peninsula, Jerusalem is much nearer, psychologically at least, than Kabul; and that Israel is a much greater destabilizing factor than Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The second is that Islam has enabled them to pass in a bewilderingly short time from dire poverty to great riches without losing their soul.

The contrast with most black African potentates is startling. The emirs are lords of the desert. They do not forget their nomadic origins. Their personal habits have remained simple, almost austere. One of them, I was told, drives around in a Cadillac (everything is relative) which is two years old, they have remained close to their people, and the feudal structures of government have, as a result, withstood the shock of violent change.

At regular intervals, they hold a *majlis* or assembly, at which anyone with a grievance or a problem can approach the ruler. Some ministers, it is said, sometimes join the line of petitioners to get a quick decision and cut through the red tape.

I had been puzzled as we flew into Kuwait by little clusters of cars dotted about the desert, sometimes around a tent or two. The explanation came later. Although the Kuwaitis, Bahrainis, Qataris and others live in modern (and often model) houses of concrete and steel, and work in huge characterless city skyscrapers, little different from those in the West, the desert

Letter from the Gulf

remains an intimate part of their soul; and they work off their nostalgia for it by driving out into it, in families, during the school holidays, to live the old simple life for a few days.

The emirs have taken to heart the lesson of Iran and try to ensure that their people do not become cut off from their roots or lose their identity through breakneck industrialization. They want to husband their resources against the time when their oil runs out and are already thinking of alternative forms of energy, including nuclear; and they are becoming acutely aware of environmental problems.

At Qatar, for instance, an industrial zone is going up 30 miles from the capital in the middle of the desert. In Abu Dhabi trees have been planted in many of the broad avenues, kept alive by expensive watering.

The picture may seem excessively idyllic. Even now, when the first phase of what one

might call the oil rush is over, especially after the sharp increase in prices from 1973 on, mistakes continue to be made. A second international airport, the size of Heathrow, is about to be opened at Abu Dhabi, although there are several already in a relatively small area, along with a stadium to seat 70,000—which is just about the size of the native population. There are stories of ultra-modern hotels being put up which remain half empty for lack of clients.

But on the whole, the Emirs appear to be wise and level-headed men who have escaped the temptations of *Folie des grandeurs*, although they could afford them, and of power politics. They would rather, as one British ambassador told me, put their money in roads, schools, housing, and sewage than in armed forces.

The influence of the old protecting power, which once reigned supreme in the Gulf, is still strong—but more perceptible in some emirates than in

others. Kuwait struck me at together as more American, including the cars, although 44 Rolls-Royces were sold there last year, and the embassy on the sea-front—"neo-Layens", the ambassador called it—remains a fortress of Englishness. At Bahrain, on the other hand, the food and the service struck me as unmistakably British; at Qatar, the military continue to live up to the Sandhurst tradition and at Abu Dhabi the head of the royal guard is a British colonel.

These are only symbols. When it comes to bricks and mortar—that is to say, trade—pro-British sentiment is not enough to preserve the near-monopoly position British industry or business once had. They must now compete on equal terms with Japan, the United States, Germany and France.

As far as motor cars are concerned they have conspicuously failed to do so. In one emirate the British ambassador had to authorize his staff to buy Japanese or American cars because there are no spare parts or after-sales service for British cars.

Charles Hargrove

A matter of life and death

The way inflation has hit maternity and death grants...

In 1969 twelve superfine nappies from Mothercare cost 55s (£2.75). Today they are £11.60. A set of six plastic baby pants were half a crown (12p) and are now 85p. The cot which cost £7.50 in 1969 is now £48.75. Maternity grant, which is intended to help parents meet the costs associated with child birth, was increased to £25 in 1969. It is still £25 today.

In 1969, in fact, the grant was sufficient to equip a family for the new arrival. It would buy nappies, pants, carrycot and transporter, an adjustable cot, cot blankets, a baby bath and stretch towelling baby suits (total bill £22.90).

The cost of the same items today has risen to £114.20 and the maternity grant would not even buy baby's carrycot and single blanket (£26.50).

At the other end of life inflation has eroded the value of state grants even more drastically. In 1949, when it was introduced, the £20 death grant was sufficient to cover the cost of a decent burial. It has been raised twice since, in 1956 and 1967, but by the latter date, when it reached its present level of £30, it was reckoned to meet only half the cost of a basic funeral.

To raise maternity from £25 to £85, restor value in terms of the price index, though not own index of prices paid related to baby products, cost approximately £50. Raising death grant to which would theoretically store the value it had in 1949 would cost about £30 million.

If Sir Geoffrey wish strike a blow at the hard-heartedness of Treasury, and spare a few pence for human life, he might also consider a little dropping the age limit imposed on eligibility for grants. Men born before 1883, and women born July 1883, do not qualify. Those born in the 10th decade qualify for only £5.

In the nature of things are few of these old people alive, but many of those survive are among the fit of an adequate death would be belated, but still comfort at the end of life.

Robin Ye
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Weather (5 pm)	°C
Cloud	-1
Clear	3
Clear	6
Cloud	3
Clear	3
Cloud	6
Clear	8

of the Skin
over slopes.
Notes:

cross roads.
1,000 ft.
complete.
Vertical
roads. Vertical
Glacier
complete.
Vertical
roads. Snow
hard tops
hard areas.
Vertical
light snow.

Inside Quarter to defy top weight but Bertie Me Boy the danger

Evans out of National

Richard Evans broke an ankle in a fall at Devon on Thursday and will miss his Grand National ride on The Pigarick. The Stratford-based jockey steered Fred Rimel's steeplechaser into fourth place at Aintree in 1947 and 1948, the pair finishing fifth in between.

STATE OF GOING (official): Newbury, good to soft. Bangor, soft. Doncaster, good. Galia, straight—stands side, ground, course, inside, rail. Hexham, good. Huntingdon, good. Leicester, soft. Plumpton, soft. Leicester, soft. heavy rain. Thirning pool. Galia: inside rail all races.

0111-04 Gosport J.C. Cunningham.
 00320-1 Charubin, N Pelat 5-D
 20100-2 Monsieur Marcel
 E. Bartholomew 4-3-0 Mulder, S-D
 02100-1 Monsieur Marcel 4-3-0 Mulder, S-D
 40042-1 Monsieur Rangelier, A Leque
 P. Blancome, 4-3-0 M. Philippe
 110000- Wild Gals, P. Acad, J. Taffin
 200312- Leukser, J. Cunningham, 10
 110011- Vyvanad, C. Bartholomew, 10
 313002- Anifa, W. Saliba, 4-8-13
 133302- Kamaradine, F. Maithel 4-8
 012220- Strong Gals, A. Paul, N. H.
 5-3 Telephonon, Anifa, 7-2
 5-1 Monsieur Marcel, 7-1 Louksor.
 Son of Love, 12-1 Strong Gals, Kama
 110000- 110000- 110000- 110000-
 Monsieur Dagobert, 23-1 Gosport.

Newcastle recently.

On paper that form does not match up to Mount Harvard's, but the man who has been training the amazing Eborley is strong recommendation in itself. Chances must also be given to the Queen Mother's representative Crispbourne Town, a creditable seven-year-old, a triumph of breeding. We appreciate the better ground; Celtic Isle, a good winner on the course in December; to the consistent Francis Charisma and the Regent, who has been on his races in lesser company. Finally, it may be risking banishment to the Tower to suggest but the Sandown winner. Look

both easy winners from moderate opposition at Wincanton.

Glendon on the move

Glendon, a disappointment in last week's Triumph Hurdle, was moved yesterday to the masterb's Malton yard to George Huffer at Newmarket. The owner, Michael Mouskous, has moved this four-year-old and Captain John because of the distance he needs to travel to see them. Glendon was not well last week and found it very difficult to travel all the way from London." M Mouskous said.

[illegible]

Doncaster selections

By Michael Seely
1.45 RED TREASURE is specially recommended for the **Hollow**.
2.25 Inside Quarter. 2.25 Berons
Remainder Imp. 4.55 The Goldstone.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
1.45 Client. 2.15 Sayval. 2.55 Handsome Kid
Fate Morgana. 4.25 La Fontaine. 4.55 Sakeen

Lacrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR
FIVE A FIVE A FIVE A

TV

[illegible]

• *Journal of Management Education* 32(10):1039-1050

Age Group	Percentage
18-29	85%
30-49	80%
50-69	75%
70+	70%

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
Investment and
Finance
pages 18 and 19

ck markets
nder 429.9, down 3.3
ilts 64.10, down 0.24

ring
795, down 1.85 cents
x 72.0, down 0.3

lar
x 89.3, up 0.4

d
down \$24

ney
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h Euro-£ 181.19
h Euro-£ 181.19

BRIT

claims r cent e of market

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level of 15 per cent
y. The campaign is
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r 2 per cent drop
ng of imported cars
in during February.
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Austin Morris and
lover Triumph cars
lost three weeks of
ped 21.5 per cent of
t.
rivate car and van
month were 144,574—
mt of them going to
manufacturers com-
th 60 per cent in

ocks at St Piran

cover panel met for
urs yesterday to dis-
controversial share
n troubled tin mining
Piran. It is under-
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n whether the group
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e Far East financier.

falls

lar rebounded in cur-
markets yesterday,
because of firming
interest rates. The
ropped sharply to
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n on the day.

ra winding up

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hose share dealings
nary last year are
nvestigation by the
change.

delays action

has decided not to
disciplinary moves
ending figures in the
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brought by various
members.

expanding

is to build a new fac-
the location has not
decided. Herr
Kuenheim, BMW
t, said at the opening
£7.5m import centre
N (GB) at Bracknell.

for resignalling

Rail is to sign a £14m
with Westinghouse
id Signal Co next week
part in the resignalling
ation-Brighton line.

ones down

e New York Stock Ex-
the Dow Jones 1
average fell 3.93 points
5. The SDR was 1267.62
the dollar, and 0.580067
the pound.

can surplus

Africa had a \$56m rand
trade surplus in
y, with imports of
and exports of R1,820m.

production up

's vehicle production in
y rose 16.8 per cent to
from 780,000 in Janu-

Mr Nott tells top US officials of concern on steel anti-dumping suit

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 21

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, met top administration officials today and voiced concern about the US Steel Corporation's anti-dumping complaint against seven European countries, including Britain.

He discussed this and other trade matters and informed sources suggested that the Americans were aware of the possibility of European retaliation to any new trade protectionist measures and that they were concerned to support a free and fair trading system.

The Secretary of State was due to see Mr Philip Klutznick, Secretary of Commerce, Mr Richard Cooper, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and Mr Reuben Askew, Special Trade Representative.

The sources indicated that the EEC officials believe the EEC Commission might be overreacting and exaggerating the dangers of a trade "war".

They said some official statements from Brussels suggested there was a crisis developing in Atlantic trade relations because of steel developments and that neither European governments nor the United States government had this same feeling.

Visit cancelled: Viscount Eleanore Davignon, the EEC's Commissioner for Industry, was expected to visit the UK. His visit was cancelled as he was to be available for contact with the American administration over the weekend after

today's decision by US Steel, Peter Norman writes.

But Viscount Davignon's action was the only visible indication how seriously Brussels is viewing the American steel company's move. The Commission has apparently decided to play the anti-dumping suits coolly and avoid any steps that might be interpreted as encouraging a trade "war".

The US Steel suit is a significant threat to European exports to America because the products singled out in the complaint account for more than 50 per cent of deliveries.

The Commission also fears that it could threaten the international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) consensus of 1977 on steel restructuring, where it was agreed that measures taken to aid the steel industry throughout the world should not endanger traditional international trading patterns.

Although US Steel's decision represents a defeat for the Carter administration in its attempt to ward off such anti-dumping action, the Commission would not like to see Washington scrap its "trigger price" system which is used to keep out cheap steel.

The Brussels argument is that such action could be interpreted as making US Steel's move legitimate and so encourage other steel companies to file anti-dumping suits.

World recession fears head OECD agenda

By Caroline Atkinson

Senior officials from seven main industrialised countries are meeting in Versailles this weekend to discuss their growing fears of a severe world recession.

The meeting, to be held under the aegis of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, was called at the suggestion of the United States.

Mr Charles Schulze, the chairman of President Carter's Council of Economic Advisors, is attending the meeting, as is Sir Douglas Wess, Permanent Secretary of the United Kingdom Treasury.

Last weekend's United States package of anti-inflationary measures, coupled with the American credit squeeze, has now made the prospects for the world economy look extremely bad.

It is widely thought that

there is no chance of avoiding a deep recession in the industrialised world. Western governments are increasingly concerned that the coming economic slowdown will be even more severe than that which followed the first round of oil price rises in 1973.

The jump in oil prices at the end of last year is expected to lead to more persistent surpluses for the exporters, and to have a longer lasting depressing effect on the rest of the world.

Because many governments are now running large public sector deficits it is thought that there is little room for them to offset the deflationary impact of higher oil prices.

Officials at the meeting will prepare for the next summit in Venice in June. The seven nations represented are Britain, America, Canada, France, Italy, West Germany and Japan.

MFI agreed bid for Status Discount

By Peter Wainwright

MFI Furniture Group, the discount furniture chain led by Mr Arthur Southon, has agreed terms for the takeover of Status Discount, the kitchen unit to self-assembly group run by Mr Edwin Healey. It values Status at around £30m and will discontinue many who had been hoping for £5m or so more.

The bid is, however, bound to succeed. Status and Robert Fleming, its financial adviser, consider the offer fair, and the directors and their families with 45.9 per cent of capital are accepting the MFI offer irrevocably. Other shareholders take this to 50.01 per cent.

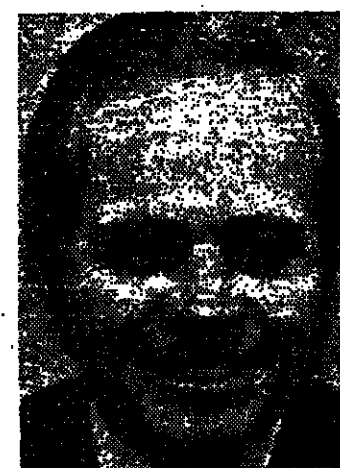
For every one share in Status holders are offered one share in MFI. These shares will be 73p yesterday, Status at 73p. Since the beginning of 1979 Status shares have swung between 85p and 20p. MFI's shares have moved between 90p and 27p.

Both sides call the deal a merger and the terms are based on respective profit contributions of the two groups to the enlarged group.

Status recently reported a sharp fall in second half profits but in the first six months of November 30, 1978-79, they rose from £3.79m to £4.06m on a turnover of nearly £41m. This



Mr Arthur Southon: offering greater resources.



Mr Edwin Healey: seat on MFI board.

indicated a margin on sales of 9.7 per cent. By November 30, last, borrowings nearly matched shareholders' funds of £7.53m. MFI rules its books on May 31. Pre-tax profits in 1978-79, soared from £5.3m to £13.9m, and in the first six months of this year they went ahead from £6.03m to £8.06m.

The group forecast profits of £18m for the full year, January, when it reported on the first half year, MFI had no

bank overdraft, but was expected to call on one to pay for a new distribution centre at Northampton, planned to open in the autumn.

On the basis of profits of £4m for Status and £18m for MFI, Status shareholders have done reasonably because they will be getting 23 per cent of the equity in the enlarged group.

The two groups are complementary and have known each

other well for years. Of the three-man Status board, only Mr Healey will be becoming a director of MFI.

Status specializes in kitchen and bedroom furniture while MFI does a similar range together with a wide range of lounge and dining room furniture and upholstery.

Status is localized in the north of England but MFI is strong in the south and in Scotland. Status is claimed to benefit from the "greater resources" of the MFI group and conditions of employment of staff will not be hurt.

The offer depends on the usual conditions, including no reference to the Monopolies Commission. Trading at both companies is understood to be satisfactory.

The two groups are already closely linked through Humber Kitchens, a leading kitchen equipment maker. Humber, a private company registered in Jersey, is a big supplier to Status, the latter's executive of which is Malcolm Healey, a brother of Edwin. Humber is thought to have suffered from the recession in kitchen furniture and Status has lent it money.

Status shares were suspended in the middle of the month at 69p.

Government cuts aid to development agencies

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Cuts in the level of assistance made by the Government to four regional industrial development organizations coupled with measures to improve Whitehall's monitoring of their activities were announced yesterday.

Central government funds to the four organizations—the North West, North East, Yorkshire and Humberside, and Devon and Cornwall—are being cut from last year's £629,000 to £542,000 in the new financial year.

The cut, announced by Sir Kenneth Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, is set against the background of the more selective thrust of the Government's regional policy outlined last summer under which a total of £233m is being reduced from regional assistance budgets over the next three years.

Sir Keith said that, after a review within the industry department, it had been decided that the central government grant should be on a pound-for-pound basis, matching the funds received by local authorities and provided by other sources up to a specified maximum. The overall total contribution from central funds would be reduced, and coordination of activities of the four agencies would in future be maintained at a lower level than the council involved.

Disbursement of central funds would be based principally on the prospects for prosperity and employment in the regions

against the background of the Government's policy of concentrating assistance on the areas of greatest need.

Last night the decision brought a sharp reaction from the North of England Development Council, which is to consider the implications at a special meeting of its executive within the next few days.

Councillor Maureen Taylor, chairman of the council, said that her first reaction was one of grave concern because the decision came at a time when the region was struggling for survival and when every effort to attract new employment was vital.

The fact that the Government was continuing its support was welcomed but it was perplexing that support should be reduced.

Sir Keith has expressed his concern before Parliament's Select Committee on Industry and Trade at the problems caused by a lower level of the department's own inward investment team, its regional investment bureaux and those of the four major industrial development organizations.

Whitehall grants are being maintained at a lower level than previously indicated over the next three years, although in all cases the size of the allocation will increase slightly.

The North of England Development Council will receive £230,000 in the new financial year rising to £250,000 in 1982-83, while Devon and Cornwall Development Bureau's grant will increase from £50,000 to £60,000 over the three years.

Pension fund trustees silent on suspensions

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The trustees of the Electricity Council pension funds met yesterday to hear the reasons for the suspension of Mr Alan Urwin, the funds' investment manager, and Mr William Lund, his deputy.

But the statement issued after the meeting, while designed to reassure contributors to the schemes, has thrown no light on the affair, about which the Electricity Council has remained consistently tight-lipped.

The trustees were given a factual report from Mr Austin Bunch, the chairman of the trustees and deputy chairman of the council, of the events leading up to the suspensions.

The statement added: "The trustees unanimously endorsed the actions taken and proposed, and affirmed that the difficulties do not in any way affect the viability or strength of the funds and will not adversely affect contributors or pensioners."

Mr Urwin and Mr Lund, employed by the Electricity Council and answerable to the trustees for their decisions as fund managers, have been suspended on full pay since March 3. The suspensions followed a report from Mr Gully, the accountancy firm, on the acquisition in 1978 of the outstanding minority in Westmoreland Investments by the pension funds.

Westmoreland was an unquoted property development company which the electricity

pension funds had supported since 1972 with considerable amounts of money. But it appears that the price paid to the outstanding minority placed an excessive valuation on the property group. In particular it was far above the valuation provided by the funds' own valuers.

However, neither Mr Urwin nor Mr Lund has been given an opportunity to put his side of the case. Mr Lund confirmed yesterday: "I haven't seen any employer since we were suspended."

The points likely to be raised in defence of Mr Urwin and Mr Lund are that had Westmoreland been liquidated in 1974-75 as an alternative to investing more money, the funds would have had to put up about £20m to cover guaranteed loans. Furthermore over the years the pension funds have steadily bought properties from Westmoreland and may be sitting on a profit on these purchases of up to £30m.

Both Mr Lund and Mr Urwin feel that they have been extremely badly treated in the affair and would like an opportunity to put their side of the case. "Obviously we want to set the record straight and get back on the job," said Mr Lund, who is acting on the advice of his solicitor provided by the National Association of Local Government Officers, his union.

Yesterday the Electricity Council would give no indication when either the council or the trustees would be meeting with Mr Lund or Mr Urwin.

Directors call for tougher curbs on secondary action in new Bill

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Directors have joined the Confederation of British Industry in rejecting the Government's proposals to curb secondary strikes. The Institute of Directors has told Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, that it wants all forms of industrial disruption to be confined to the employer involved in the dispute.

Even at the risk of delaying the Employment Bill, which already contains clauses which would ban secondary picketing, the directors want the subsequent proposals on secondary action redrafted. As it stands, the proposed legislation would, the institute believes, continue to give legal immunity to trade unionists who take industrial action against any "first" customer or supplier even though they are not themselves involved in the dispute.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, the institute's director general said in a letter to Mr Prior that the fear was that "because of

the continuation of legal immunity, such action might be seen as having received a stamp of legitimacy—a licence for secondary action."

The letter was in response to a working paper issued by Mr Prior in which comments were requested by yesterday. In the light of these, he intends to insert a new clause in the Employment Bill now before Parliament.

The institute says it recognizes that it is the Government's desire to act now only on aspects of the present relations legislation in urgent need of amendment.

However, it considers that the immunities envisaged in the proposals are too wide and it regrets that the Government proposals have sought merely to reduce the scale of secondary industrial action rather than removing its legal immunity altogether. It says that a "surer definition of a first supplier or customer" is required than at present proposed.

While not going as far as the institute, the CBI also thinks

that this aspect of the proposals offers too many loopholes to be effective. A deputation led by Sir John Methven, the CBI's director general, expressed this view to Mr Prior at a meeting on Thursday.

It also said that it was a prime requirement for the Bill to be in operation by the winter, in time for the next round of pay negotiations, even if it is not perfect.

Employers' near-unanimous criticism of the proposals are likely to come as a surprise to the Government. It is the first major criticism that they have made of policies since the General Election.

However, attitudes to secondary action have hardened considerably during the course of the steel strike. Even the Institute of Personnel Management (IPM), which had taken a neutral view of the earlier legislation, has now changed its position and is in favour of secondary picketing, thinks that the secondary industrial action proposal might do more harm than good.

Accountant on board of British Shipbuilders

By Our Industrial Editor

The Government has appointed another "outside" director to the board of British Shipbuilders, the state shipbuilding corporation.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, announced yesterday that Mr Stanley Hardcastle has been made a part-time member of the corporation's board for two years.

The appointment comes one day after it was revealed that the Government is not to renew the three-year contract of Mr Michael Casey, the corporation's chief executive, when his secondment from the Civil Service expires in mid-May.

Mr Hardcastle, a chartered accountant, is director of a number of companies including Hill Samuel, the merchant bankers, and BPB Industries, and was formerly chairman of Cornhill Insurance and finance director of Tilling, the industrial holding company.

His appointment follows a trend established by the Government with the appointment earlier this year in a part-time

capacity of Mr John Gardiner, chief executive of the Laird Group. Previously the board, both full-time and part-time members, was composed of either senior executives from within the shipbuilding industry or board members from unions associated with the industry.

More changes are expected as the search by Whitehall continues for a successor to Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, the board chairman, whose contract has been extended, and for the vacancy created by the impending departure of Mr Casey.

There is speculation that among the possible candidates is Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of the Sheffield-based steel and engineering group of Aurora Holdings. In the early 1960s he was managing director of the William Doxford marine engine building company, part of the Doxford & Sunderland shipbuilding group on Wearside. Yesterday Mr Atkinson said that he had received no offer of the chairmanship.

THE PENTLAND INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1979

	1979	1978
Gross Revenue	£1,942,352	£1,485,376
Earnings per Ordinary Share	6.34p	4.61p
Dividend per Ordinary Share	5.45p	4.55p
Special Dividend per Ordinary Share	0.83p	—
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	150p	156p
Total Net Assets	£28.2m	£29.2m

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

REVENUE—Following the removal of dividend controls on 31st July, 1979 several companies have paid special dividends in respect of previous years. This has allowed us to pay a special, non-recurring dividend of 0.83p to our Ordinary Shareholders.

Earnings—These special items Earnings per Ordinary Share have risen from 4.61p in 1978 to 5.51p in 1979 and the total dividend from 4.55p to a recommended 5.45p, increases of 19.5% and 19.8% respectively.

CAPITAL—This has not been an easy year, particularly for overseas investment, because of the abolition of the Investment Currency Premium which stood at £2.625% on 31st December, 1978 and because of the strengthening of sterling against the dollar. The fall in Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share from 156p to 150p should be viewed against this background.

ENERGY AND ENERGY-RELATED STOCKS—At the year end our investments in Oil and Oil-related companies represented 17.3% of our total net assets. If, however, we include companies whose main business is Non-Energy-Related, but which have substantial interests in Oil and Gas Reserves, our overall stake in the Energy sector is approximately 25%. It is interesting to note that over 40% by value of our overseas portfolio is in this sector.

POSITION AT 29th FEBRUARY, 1980

Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	164p
Total Net Assets	£30.6m

Geographical Distribution	%
UK	66
North America	27
Australia	4
Japan	1
Others	2

Copies of the Accounts are available on request.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 3 Albany Place, Edinburgh, EH2 4NQ on Tuesday, 15th April, 1980 at 12.00 o'clock noon.

EAST OF SCOTLAND INVESTMENT MANAGERS LIMITED, 3 ALBANY PLACE, EDINBURGH, EH2 4NQ.

Clifford Webb

PRICE CHANGES

L & Ross 10p to 30p	Gibbs, A. 7p to 85p
10p to 61p	JD Int 30p to 85p
6p to 27p	John (Ernest) 10p to 25p
10p to 38p	Killinghall 10p to 51p
4p to 31p	

Hill 25p to 61p	Rio Tinto Zinc 23p to 345p
25p to 30p	Seastrut 25c to 675c
25p to 81c	South Crofty 4p to 33p
25p to 30p	W Rand Cons 30c to 680c
20p to 195p	Youghal Cpts 2p to 10p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	sells	buys	sells
la \$ 2.05	1.98	Norway Kr 11.50	11.50
Sch 30.40	28.50	Portugal Esc 112.50	106.50
Fr 71.25	67.75	Spain Pes 155.00	148.00
2.62	2.55	Sweden Kr 9.90	9.50
Kr 13.25	12.70	Switzerland Fr 4.05	3.95
\$ 8.90	8.50	USA \$ 1.00	1.00
2.62	2.55	Yugoslavia Dnr 51.50	46.50
DM 9.28	8.80		
9.00	8.50		
Dr 11.35	10.75		
£ 1.13	1.09		
1985.00	1875.00		
565.00	540.00		
lands Gld 4.65	4.45		

Minister backs £718 course to train women for executive roles Course for managers with not a man in sight

The "Women's Lib" lobby industry has had another success in its campaign to smooth the path for women to become senior managers. And they have done it in style with the support of a senior government minister, two government departments and one of the biggest engineering employers' organizations in the country.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, has designated the West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association as a training body under the terms of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. For more simply he has permitted the association to discriminate against men by holding a training course exclusively for women.

It is the first time the minister has given such a dispensa-

tion to an employers' organization, although a number of privately-owned training consultant companies already operate women-only courses.

Two six-week courses are planned beginning on April 14 and will cost students £718 each. But the Manpower Services Commission has agreed to meet half the cost of those already in employment.

Those without a job need not despair. The commission has let it be known that it will also sponsor a limited number of out of work candidates with management potential.

The possibility of children—and later their welfare while mother at work—has long been the biggest deterrent to women becoming top managers. Many boards are not prepared to invest in the training of

managers only to see them forced to leave when they are beginning to repay this confidence.

The Birmingham course organizers have persuaded the Manpower Services Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission to make arrangements for existing children to be cared for while their mother is in the classroom.

Appropriately, the Equal Opportunities spokesman is a woman, Mrs D

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Banks provide the one bright spot

The general slackening-off of interest by investors continued on the last day of the account and resulted in a dull trading day in the stock market.

Shares dried up, especially in the last half of the day, as a result of institutional support and a smaller list of company results and trading statements failed to generate any enthusiasm. Prices were marked up at around 3.30 pm in preparation for the new three-week account which will also contain a Budget, feared by many to lack any incentives for increased investor support.

The recent rally in oil, after a sharp downturn at the end of the last account, also started to run out of steam as dealers took the possibility of windfall profits taxes and increased petroleum tax more seriously. Mines also suffered a setback as the rise in the gold price, seen in the previous two days, which took it back up to \$581 an ounce at one point, was halted.

The fall in other commodity prices also resulted in lack of interest in the related stocks. The only small bright spot was the banking sector which took heart from comment on the monetary paper and the phasing-out of the "corset".

But the gilt-edged market saw no reaction from the monetary great paper and prices for long and short opened easier. During a particularly quiet day with little business, longs closed with scattered losses about £1 down. Shorters saw few sellers and no buyers and gradually drifted down to end £1 each on the day.

The FT Index fell back during the day and at 3.00pm was 4.9 down at 428.3, its lowest ebb since the beginning of January, but managed to creep back up to 429.9, down 3.3, by the close.

Most of the leading industrial stocks lost a few pence on the day, although Pilkington was unchanged at 215p. Glaxo remained at 248p and Reed added 1p to 187p. ICI lost 2p to 366p, Unilever fell back 3p to 420p and Rank dipped 2p to 200p. The other falls were seen in

Word in the market yesterday was that UDS or the House of Fraser could be eyeing furniture group, Mopics, which has rejected the informal £3.6m offer from Waring & Gillow. The shares are already slightly above the offer price at 31p.

Fisons which went from 272p to 270p, Bechem which also drifted back 2p to 115p and BAT Industries which saw a 3p fall to 230p. Dunlop lost 1p to 59p, as did Courtaulds which finished the day at 65p.

Among the companies which issued reports, Pilsbury's interim figures resulted in a 3p gain for the share price to 130p.

Carlton Industries, which boosted profits, saw an 8p jump in the price while Williams and James dropped 3p at one point to 147p after a 42 per cent profit drop.

Bernard Wardle lost 1p to 30p on the news that Mr Graham Lacey's new company, Ferguson Investments, has won the £500,000 bid for the vinyl fabrics group. The offer has gone unconditional with 88

per cent of acceptances. MFI closed unchanged at 76 after being shaved a few pence on the announcement of its agreed £30m bid for Status Discount.

Status, which was suspended at 69p, returned and rose to 72p during the morning. Guthrie Corporation, the plantations group moved to ward off the expected bid from Sime Darby due next week, a year and a day after the last unsuccessful offer. It made an £18m bid for City and International Trust, the BHL Samuel-managed investment trust. City came back from suspension and closed at 130p, up 4p.

Bid speculation over Ascon and Fisheries continued and put 4p on the price to 66p, while Mairhead lost 12p following rumours that Tyko may be trying to get rid of its 24 per cent stake.

Montague L. Meyer lost 1p to 114p while Amalgamated Power dropped 3p to 76p. Speculative interest also boosted motor groups. Fordens by 4p to 31p and ERK which finally settled at 94p unchanged having risen to 97p at one point.

St Paul's, the mining group, dropped 3p to 67p. The takeover offer Panel discussed the group's shareholdings.

Antony Gibbs, which is awaiting the outcome of talks with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, gained 7p to 85p.

The stores sector also reflected the downward drift as the account ended with Marks and Spencer losing 1p to 88p. Boots fell by 1p to 179p while Great Universal Stores "A" shares dropped 6p to 378p. Burton gave up 3p to 114p.

Tricentral which produced a sharp drop in the day, fell 4p to 51p. The mining shares also had a quiet day and were hit by the fall in the gold price, fixed in the afternoon at \$525, having never reached the previous night's high levels found in New York. P. S. Goddard went back 31p to \$501 and Vaal Reef, one of the week's better performers, finished 51p down at \$541.

Banks made a few pence gains, following Barclays' 4p rise to 418p. The bank's 3p up at 418p, while Midland finished at 325p, showing a 5p improvement. Lloyds gained 6p to 286p.

Equity turnover for March 20 was £67.125m (number of bargains 1,531,919). The most active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Ultramar, Shell, Burnham, Unilever, Rascal, Marks and Spencer, BP, Rio Tinto Zinc, ICI, Bechem and Midland Bank.

Results from Hawley Leisure due out on Monday should be good according to stockbrokers. Capel Cure Myers who reckon profits could hit £500,000 against £22,000 last year. In the past 12 months the company has made seven acquisitions. The price closed last night steady at 41p.

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Guthrie launches £18m bid for trust

By Alison Mitchell

Guthrie Corporation, making its first move to fend off a potential bid from Sime Darby, yesterday launched an £18.3m takeover offer for City and International Trust.

The move has long been expected as Guthrie's first defence tactic against Sime which, after April 1, is free from Takeover Panel restrictions to try again in its attempt to acquire Guthrie.

If the City deal goes through, and shareholders' approval is being sought, the current £28.3m offer could be diluted to a holding of 27.5 per cent. The terms of the deal are 1.9 Guthrie shares for every 10 City shares, or a cash alternative worth 134.9p a share.

City shares, which were suspended at 125p for a short time yesterday ended the day at 131p while Guthrie rose 5p to 805p.

The cash alternative will be financed by the issue of 11 shares to Guthrie shareholders, which will include Sime, at a discount of 11.8 per cent on the current Guthrie price.

If the cash alternative is accepted in full the new share issue would raise £18.3m. The net asset value of City, on March 18, 1980 amounted to £18.3m, which is equivalent to 133.4p a share.

Guthrie has also announced forecast profits for the year to December 31, 1979. At the pre-tax level the results are expected to amount to £26m, against a 1978 level of £20.9m. This is less than the £30m forecast at the time of the Sime bid.

The strength of sterling for the month has also helped exchange rates ruling at January 31, 1979, when the previous forecast was made, 1979 pre-tax profit would have amounted to £29m.

If the City deal goes through the Guthrie dividend will be raised from 34.5p to 42.8p gross, a 24 per cent increase over the take-over bid.

Because of Guthrie's current market rating and its United Kingdom tax position the directors say that the acquisition of City is a particularly efficient method of raising cash.

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The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand houses (Seasonally adjusted)

	Index	Average price (£)	% change over the preceding 1 year	% change over the preceding 5 months	% change over the preceding 3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,757			
January	109.3	16,133	16.9	9.3	3.6
February	118.2	17,450	23.0	12.0	8.2
March	121.1	17,866	21.1	10.7	2.4
1978 January	122.9	18,132	20.8	8.8	4.7
February	127.8	18,763	24.6	10.5	6.2
March	130.5	19,259	23.6	10.4	7.8
April	131.7	19,441	27.3	12.2	7.2
May	136.2	20,084	30.4	13.6	7.0
June	138.4	20,341	28.1	19.5	5.6
July	142.6	21,038	28.2	16.0	8.2
August	145.2	21,427	28.0	14.1	6.6
September	145.5	21,480	29.1	11.5	5.8
October	149.5	22,065	27.4	13.5	4.9
November	151.4	22,339	26.3	11.2	4.3
December	151.0	22,291	24.8	9.6	3.8

1980 January 154.2 22,754 25.5 8.2 3.1 February 156.2 23,052 22.7 7.6 3.2

Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	February £	January £	% change over 3 months ended November
North	17,483	17,334	4.9
York and Humberside	18,114	18,087	3.8
North-east	18,127	18,025	1.5
East Midlands	17,785	17,578	3.2
West Midlands	20,102	20,235	3.1
East Anglia	21,545	21,806	4.0
Wales	19,049	18,619	7.5
South-west	24,080	23,849	2.3
South-east	30,188	29,964	2.4
Greater London	30,712	30,124	1.9
Northern Ireland	21,408	20,977	0.8
Scotland	19,838	20,316	-4.1

One feature of the housing market that is not revealed by the tables published this month is the apparent widening of the price differential between second-hand and new houses.

The average, unadjusted price of new houses, based on a three-month moving average to February, is £26,745.

The figure for the three months ended in February is about 3 per cent higher than for the three months ended in January. The increase over the six months period is 11.5 per cent and the new house price index shows a rise of 63 per

cent since its launch in December, 1977.

Unlike the previous house price index of 1972-73 when second-hand house prices set the pace, the 1978-79 boom saw new house prices maintain their traditional lead.

House prices in the regions confirm local evidence that there is little movement in the Greater London area, the South-east and South-west. The setback in Scotland, a particularly strong market last year, is partly seasonal.

Margaret Stone

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Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Dividend pence	Pay date	Year's total
Imperial Chemicals (I)	1,110.0	0.3(0.03)	1.11(0.13)	0.74	25/4	12.5
Berry Trust (I)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Britannia Arrow (F)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Belmont-Gundy (I)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Carlisle Inds (F)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Gibbs & Dancy (F)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
A. Henriques (F)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Jameson Corp (F)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Indo-Siam Corp (I)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Indo-Siam Corp (I)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Peco (F)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Peco (F)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
W. A. Tyack (I)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5
Wm & James (F)	1,110.0	1.52(0.51)	1.50(0.17)	0.74	0.74	12.5

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * Interim dividend, as no final will be paid for year; † Adjusted for scrip issue. ‡ Increased to reduce disparity between payments. § All comparative figures for Carlton are for a nine months period, except the earnings per share which are annualised.

Mr Barnett takes chair at Henriques

Mr Joel Barnett, the former Labour Cabinet minister and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is taking over as chairman of Arthur Henriques.

The appointment does not signal a retreat from politics, says Mr Barnett, who is also occupying himself in opposition as a director of Bodycote International and as chairman of the influential Public Accounts Committee.

Henriques is based in Mr Barnett's home town of Manchester and makes ladies clothes for the major mail-order com-

panies. Profits in the year to December 31 rose by 73 per cent to a record £373,000 on sales ahead from £3.12m to £4.65m. The gross dividend goes up by more than half and a one-for-one scrip is planned.

At Henriques, Mr Barnett will be sitting on £650,000 cash worth 33p a share. Thanks to Mrs Thatcher, it is earning 18 per cent on deposits and Mr Barnett also reckons the credit

squeeze should throw up some good acquisition opportunities.

Two-for-five rights by Sturla Higgs

Liverpool-based consumer finance group, Sturla Holdings, is to make an underwritten rights issue on a two-for-five basis at par (10p), a share to raise about £420,000, before expenses. Sturla also proposes to takeover ICPS Ltd, a private company which operates in the credit life insurance and extended car warranty field.

The price is £100,000 for the net asset value of ICPS, plus a further £100,000 on the basis of two and a half times the warranted pre-tax profit of £40,000 for the year to January 31, 1981. If profits exceed £40,000, shares calculated at two and a half times of the excess will be issued. Such an issue will not exceed £100,000 worth of shares.

Options

Traded options continued to mark time yesterday, weighed down by considerations including the weekend and the forthcoming budget. Total contracts fell from 389 to 315 with dealers reporting very little real interest.

Consolidated Gold Fields led the way with 150 contracts most of which centred on the April 500p and 550p series. Oils came next with BP and Shell managing 155 contracts between them as the share prices both slipped 4p to 354p.

Credito Italiano

Credito Italiano, Italy's third largest bank, said its profit rose a marginal 0.2 per cent during 1979 and it will pay an unchanged dividend of 60 lire a share.

Profit edged up to 14,123m lire last year from 14,091m in 1978. The addition to reserves was 4,500m lire, unchanged from 1978.

Deposits showed a healthy gain of 23.9 per cent to 19.5 trillion lire from 15.7 trillion.

Australian merger

Brewers Tooth and Co and the property group Hooker have agreed to merge, the companies said in a joint statement in Sydney.

The move will be effected through Tooth making a formal takeover offer of 11 of its AS1 ordinary units for every 20 Hooker ordinary 50 cent shares.

Dalmine losses cut

Dalmine, the Italian maker of steel tubing, said it narrowed its loss to 56,500m lire in 1979 from 62,400m in 1978.

The company is 95 per cent owned by the Finisider state steel group. Gross turnover rose approximately 19 per cent to 522,000m lire. It did not expect the market to improve significantly this year.

Exxon unit's profits double

Sales of petroleum products totalled 17.1m tons last year, down from 17.3m in 1978. But in value, sales increased by 28.5 per cent to 14,880m francs. After setting aside 409m francs for depreciation allowances, the company's operating profit stood at 1,535m francs of which 1,412m francs accrued from inventory appreciation.

The company said it intends to pay a net dividend of 12 francs a share, double that paid for 1978.

en taxman gets it wrong

taxman is at fault. The select committee has recommended in its first report of this session that the threshold of £4,000 should be raised to £5,000, the average level of male income, and that it should also be reviewed annually.

It also recommended greater tolerance higher up the income scale. The Inland Revenue has always argued that wealthy taxpayers far from being the victims of Inland Revenue error were the beneficiaries: they had the use of the unpaid tax and did not suffer hardship when finally asked to account for it.

Acknowledging the force of this argument, the select committee still believed that "token remission" should be available to taxpayers as "compensation for the inconvenience to which they have been put". It recommended a 10 per cent remission for those with incomes between £10,000-£15,000.

For pensioners, the select committee shares the view of the ombudsman who thought it quite inexcusable that it should be possible for a part of the state administration to make errors over the coding of state pensions, paid by another part of the state administration.

In fact, steps have been taken to improve communications between the Department of Health and Social Security and the Inland Revenue to minimize the problems of pensioners who appear to suffer disproportionately at the hands of the Revenue (largely because of their changing circumstances and multiple sources of income).

The select committee recommended that all pensioners should be allowed an extra concession of having £2,000 of their income disregarded before being subject to the threshold limits.

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Dull end to account

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

SHIPPING									
382	287	292	301	308	310	311	312	313	314
315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324
325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334
335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344
345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354
355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364
365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374
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495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504
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525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534
535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544
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565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574
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625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634
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685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694
695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704
705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714
715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724
725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734
735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744
745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754
755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764
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775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784
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795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804
805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814
815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824
825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834
835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844
845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854
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865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874
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935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944
945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954
955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964
965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974
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985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994
995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004
1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014
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Law Report March 21 1980

Chancery Division

Court's discretion in
face of fears
of industrial action

Howard E. Perry & Co Ltd v
British Railways Board
Before Sir Robert Megarry,
Vice-Chancellor

[Judgment delivered March 17]

Howard E. Perry & Co Ltd, steel

stockholders, of Wiltshire, West

Midlands, were granted an

order that the British Railways

Board should allow them to take

some 500 tons of steel held up by

the board at Wolverhampton and

Brierley Hill depots because

the board feared industrial action

by the National Union of Rail-

waymen if attempts were made by

the board to have it delivered.

Mr Alexander Irvine, QC and Mr

Alaric Dalziel for Perry; Mr D.

Gidley Scott for the railways

board.

His Lordship said that all Perry

asked was that the board should

permit them, with their own vehi-

cles, equipment and employees, to

enter the board's depots and

remove the steel themselves. The

board had not suggested there

would be any objection apart from

"trade union difficulties".

Mr Irvine's case was that the

steel was Perry's, that they were

entitled to possession of it, it lay

in the board's premises, and yet

the board was refusing to deliver

it or allow Perry to collect it. The

board had accordingly committed

what used to be the tort of con-

version and now, by virtue of the

Torts (Interference with Goods) Act, 1977, section 1, was called

"wrongful interference with goods".

Perry claimed an order for

delivery up of the steel and dam-

ages: section 3(2)(a). By section

4(2) and Order 29, rule 2A of the

Rules of the Supreme Court, the

board had power to make an inter-

locutory order for delivery up of

was a clear case of conversion.

The board was denying Perry

most of the rights of ownership,

including the right to possession,

for an indefinite period. A period

which would not end until the

board felt its fears no longer justified

the withholding of the steel

becoming otherwise uneconomical

"definite". There was a detention

of the steel which was consciously

adverse to Perry's rights, which

seemed to be of the essence of at

least one form of conversion. A

denial of possession did not cease

to be a denial by being accompa-

nied by a statement that Perry

were entitled to the possession

that was being withheld.

Accordingly, the board's con-

tention failed. To withhold the

steel was a wrongful interference

with goods within the Act and the

board's failure to deliver it was

not a defence. The board's con-

version was not a defence to the

claim for delivery up of the goods

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